FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER.

VOL. XLVIII.] FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, DECEMBER 14, 1863. [NO. 2428

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EDWARD J. HALE & SONS,

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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Advertisements inserted for $2 per square of 16 lines for the first, and one dollar for each succeeding publication. Advertisements not exceeding a half-square (eight lines) $1 for the first and 50 cents for each succeeding insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

From and after this date, no name of a new subscriber will be entered without payment in advance, nor will the paper be sent to such subscribers for a longer time than is paid for.

Such of our old subscribers as desire to take the paper on this system will please notify us when making remittances.

Jan'y 1, 1858.

NOTICE.

I WILL sell on the 7th Jan'y 1864, at my plantation in Bladen county, my crop of

Corn, Peas, Rye, Potatoes, Fodder and Hay, Farming Utensils, Carts, &c., two good Horses, a few Cattle and Hogs.

I will also hire out 20 Negroes (men, women and children) and rent my Plantation. Terms make known on day of sale.

E. E. ROBESON

Prospect Hall, N. C., Dec'r 8. 87*3td

LAND FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale about 420 acres of Land in Moore county, lying on Deep River. There is on the premises a No. 1 Dwelling and all necessary Out-houses. This land is said to be about the center of the Coal Basin. Any person wishing to see the land can apply to William McIntosh, on the plank road leading to the Gulf from Fayetteville, or to the subscriber at Chalk Level, Harnett county.

J. A. HARVAN.

October 22, 1863. 75 9td

Notice to Absentees and Deserters.

FOR each of the annexed absentees as may be Deserter, a reward of Thirty Dollars each will be paid, on delivery to the Conscript officer nearest to where he may be captured:

A list of Absentees and Deserters in the 59th Regiment of North Carolina Troops.

Co A.—Capt L A Johnson.

Private C A Hoyt, substitute and deserter, Newbern, N C.

Co B.—Capt James T Mitchell.

Thomas Brown, substitute and deserter, Wilmington
Poillin W Duffie, " " Richmond, Va
John Salder, " " "
John Myers, " " "
Hartman Miles, " " "
Wm McCoy, " " Winchester Va
John Tablet, " " "
Wm D Bradshaw, absent without leave, Lenoir, N C
Lewis R Bray, " " Danville, Va

Co C.—Capt A McIntire.

G W Breece, absent without leave, Golden Place, Onslow county
T H Carter, " " Teache's Depot, Duplin
Seaburn Casteen, " " Bannerman's P O, New Hanover county
Isaac Deal, " " "
S H Edens, " " Golden Place, Onslow
L G Henderson, " " Bannerman's, N Han'r
W T Mitchell, " " Kenansville, Duplin
Ben Padgett, " " Golden Place, Onslow
Robt Padgett, " " "

Co D.—Capt Wm Sharpe.

Elisha Bolch, deserter, Hertford county
James Brown, " Richmond, Va
J A Dilday, " Hertford county
Isaac Godwin, " "
Barnes Griffith, " "
W E Hill, " "
James Holloman, " "
D O Evans, " "
W A Overton, " "
Caleb Taylor, " "
John A Parker, " "
J M Deane, absent without leave, Hertford county
H E Dilday, " "
J H Eure, " " Gates county
Ben Futrell, " " Northampton county
Ira Futrell, " "
Wm J Joynes, " "
J J Haggard, " " Hertford county
Alex'r Jones, " "

Co E.—Capt J Y Bryce.

James Browing, deserter, Gaston county
A S Craig, " "
Jno M Huffman, " "
J T Loy, " "
A T Loy, " "
Alex'r McDaniel, " "
E B McDaniel, " "
Merritt Sparks, " "
W B Simms, " Charlotte
J P Howe, " Gaston county
J H Smith, " "
Nicholas Poplin, " Charlotte
Alex'r Craig, absent without leave, Charlotte
John Riggers, " " Mecklenburg c'ty

Co F.—Capt J B Cherry.

M Butler, deserter, Windsor
W L Brogden, " "
E Morris, " "
H Morris, " "
W E H Ipman, deserter, Hertford county
J A Willoughby, " "
Geo Taylor, " Bertie county
J W Wills, " Merry Hill, Bertie county
N W Parker, " Hotel P O,
Isaac Parker, " "
Corpl D Atkins, absent without leave, Pitch Landing
John Rhea, " " Hotel P O,
R H Barnes, " " Roxobel
J J Butler, " " Windsor
Warley Butler, " "
C Cooper, " "
J J Dilday, " " Pitch Landing
R N Freeman, " " Colerain
J J Harrell, " " Roxobel
M Harrell, " "
K Jenkins, " " Hotel P O,
J J Mizell, " " Windsor
Wm Morris, " "
R D Myers, " "
J B Parker, " " Colerain
J S Peel, " "
W B Peel, " "
F Perry, " "
J B Perry, " "
J n Pearce, " " Merry Hill
J W Pearce, " "
L e Rice, " " Pitch Landing
H Taylor, " " Windsor
J M Willoughby, " "

Co G.—Capt D Bell.

W H Brothers, deserter, Shingle Landing, Currituck co
James Owens, " Currituck C H,
John Martin, substitute and deserter, Petersburg, Va
John McGinnis, " "
John Walsh, " "
Isaac Bright, absent without leave, Sligo, Currituck
Jabez Cox, " " "
Jere Forbes, " " Dey's Mill, "
Thos G Gray, " " Shingle Landing
Thos Grandy, " "
S O Neal, " " Currituck C H,
Warren Owens, " "
Thos S Owens, " "
Wm H Pugh, Sr, " South Mills, Camden county
Wm H Pugh, Jr, " "
Moxey Sawyer, " Sligo, Currituck county
Thadeus Tatum, " Currituck C H,
Benj F Mathiss, " Dey's Mill
Co H.—Capt A Barnes.
E Godwin, deserter, Wilson
Wm Sasser, " "
Jas Griffin, " "

L. A. JOHNSON, Capt Co A,
Com'dg 59th N C T.

December 1, 1863. 87*3t

Run the Blockade!

W. MacINTYRE

Is opening to-day and offers for sale:

2 CASES GALICOES, 3,863 yds;
2 Cases English Shirtings, 3,640 yds;
1 Case Pillow Case Cottons, 2060 yds;
1 Case Printed Cotton Handkerchiefs, 225 dozen;
1 Case French Drab Hats, 20 dozen.

Nov. 15, 1863. 81-6w*81

NEW PUBLICATIONS

BY BRANSON, FARRAR & CO.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL READER, with Maps—is just published. This is the only geography published in the Confederacy, and is to be followed by a Common School Geography. Send in your orders soon. Price $2.00.

THE DIXIE PRIMER—one of the cheapest and best books for children, has gone through the second edition with great popularity. Price per hundred, $10.

THE FIRST DIXIE READER will be out the 20th of Nov inst., by Mrs. M. B. Moore, author of the series. Price 50 cents.

THE DIXIE SPELLING BOOK, will not be delayed much longer.

RESPER AND OTHER POEMS, by Theo. H Hill. Second edition nearly exhausted. Send in your orders. Price $1.

MYRTLE LEAVES, now in press, shall be issued as soon as possible under the circumstances. It will be a popular book. Price $1 50.

THE ELEMENTARY SPELLING BOOK, is adapted to Southern Schools. Price $1 00.

MORVEN AND LINDA, by Rev. A. W. Mangum. Beautiful and good. Price $1.

FIRST BOOK IN COMPOSITION, contains a number of pleasant writing exercises. The only book of the kind published in the Confederacy. Price 1 50.

HISTORICAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS, suited to Sabbath Schools and to soldiers in camp. The best book of the kind yet published. Price 50 cts.

The usual deductions made to the trade.

N B.—Those ordering books to be sent per mail, must send 10 cents extra on each dollar to pay postage.

BRANSON, FARRAR & CO.,

Raleigh, Nov. 16. 85 *tf

Southern Publications on Hand.

WARREN'S SURGERY, $5 00
Hardee's Tactics, 1st & 2d vols., 5 00
Gilham's Manual, 9 00
Army Regulations, 5 00
Evolutions of the Line, 5 00
Wheeler's Cavalry, 6 50
Volunteer's Field and Camp book, 75
Napoleon's Maxims of War, 1 00
Cavalry Drill by Patten, 1 50
Bayonet Exercise and Skirmish Drill, 1 00
The Volunteer's Hand book, 1 00
School of the Guides, 1 00
First Year of the War, 8 00
Second Year of the War, 8 00
York's English Grammar, 1 50
Smith's English Grammar, revised, 2 00
Smythe's Primary Grammar, 75
Smythe's School Grammar, 1 00
Elementary Spelling Book, 1 00
The Confederate Speller, 1 50
Our Own Speller, 75
The Dixie Primer, 25
The Confederate Primer, 50
Our Own Primer, 50
Southern Methodist Primer, 50
Pictorial Primer, 50
First Book in Composition, 1 50
Our Own First Reader, 50
The First Dixie Reader, 50
Our Own Second Reader, 75
Bingham's Latin Grammar, 2 50
Geographical Reader with Maps, 2 00
Hill's Poems, 1 00
The Guerrillas, Dialogues, 50
Wesleyan Catechism, No. 1, 25
Wesleyan Catechism, No. 2, 50
Capers' Catechism, 25
Sermon Catechism, by Wood, 25
Historical Scripture Questions, 50
Sunday School Bell, 50
Sabbath School Wreath, 50
Biblical Catechism, by Lansdell, 50
Life of Stonewall Jackson, 5 00
Strange Story, 3 00
Great Expectations, 3 00
Morgan and his Men, 3 50
The Battle of the Bards, 2 50
Romance of a Poor Young Man, 1 50
Step Sister, 1 50
Wild Western Scenes, 1 50
Darrell Markham, 2 50
Campaign from Texas to Maryland, 1 75
No Name, by Wilkie Collins, 4 00
Aurora Floyd, by " 3 00
Les Miserables Fantine, 2 00
" " Corvette, 2 00
" " Maurius, 2 00
Stonewall Song Book, 50
Dixie Land Songster, 25
Bonnie Blue Flag, 25
Cotton Field Melodies, 25

The usual deductions made to the trade.

N. B.—Those ordering books by mail should send an extra ten cents on the dollar for postage.

BRANSON, FARRAR & CO.,

Raleigh, N. C.

Raw Hides wanted to Tan.

WE will tan Hides for one half of the Leather. Hides to be delivered at our Tan Yard at Rives' Chapel, Chatham county, P. O. Beaumont.

We refer to Geo W Williams & Co., Fayetteville.

W. D WATSON & CO.

Beaumont, Chatham Co., Nov. 19, 1863. 83*3tpd

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE subscriber is compelled to advance his charges or abandon the practice of Medicine. Formerly, when corn was worth $1 per bushel, physicians charged 50 cents per mile for professional visits, $1 for a prescription, &c. Though bacon and some other of the necessaries have advanced much more in proportion, the subscriber will make the *price of corn* the standard for his charges after 1st December 1863.

If he is required to pay $5 per bushel, he will charge $2 50 per mile. $5 for prescription, *or advice;* Obstetric Surgery, the price of 10 bushels of corn, &c. For medicine, in proportion to charges.

Deductions will be made in favor of the families of soldiers, where they are dependent upon a soldier's wages for support.

☞ Fees due when the services are rendered.

P. W. WOOLEY.

Nov. 23, 1863. 85 3tpd

State of North Carolina,

MOORE COUNTY.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, October Term, 1863.

Thomas W. Ritter, Adm'r, vs John S. Ritter and others. Petition to sell Land.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that George McIntosh and wife Susannah reside beyond the limits of this State: It is therefore ordered that publication be made for six weeks successively in the Fayetteville Observer, for them to be and appear at the next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the County of Moore, at the Court House in Carthage, on the 4th Monday of January next, and then and there to plead, answer or demur to said petition, or it will be heard ex parte as to them.

Witness, A. H. McNeill, Clerk of our said Court, at office, 4th Monday in October, 1863.

A. H. McNEILL, C. C. C.

87-*6t

State of North Carolina,

MOORE COUNTY.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, October Term 1863.

Nancy Oats vs W. Y. Oats and others. Petition for Dower.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that John A. Oats and James G. Oats reside beyond the limits of this State: It is therefore ordered that publication be made for six weeks successively in the Fayetteville Observer for them to be and appear at the next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, to be held for the County of Moore, at the Court House in Carthage, on the 4th Monday of January next, and then and there plead, answer or demur to said petition, or it will be heard ex parte as to them.

Witness, A. H. McNeill, Clerk of our said Court, at office in Carthage, 4th Monday in October, 1863.

A. H. McNEILL, C. C. C.

87-*6t

OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 10, 1863.

COUNTY MATTERS.—The County Court of this County, at its Session on Tuesday, appropriated one hundred thousand dollars to purchase corn for the county, and appointed the following committee to digest a plan for distributing the same among the several Districts of the county:

Cross Creek, D. G. MacRae.
Town, Joseph Arey.
Black River, L. E. Godwin.
Silver Run, A. R. Smith.
Lock's Creek, Alex. Maxwell.
Cedar Creek, B. Culbreth.
Gray's Creek, E. Spearman.
Rockfish, David Murphy.
Seventy-first, Duncan Shaw.
Quewhiffle, Wm. J. Kelly.
Carver's Creek, Wm. B. Ray.

The committee are requested to meet at the Court House on Wednesday Dec. 16th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

THE NORTH CAROLINIANS IN THE MISSIONARY RIDGE BATTLE.—We have great pleasure in publishing the letter of an officer in one of the North Carolina Regiments which took part in the late battle near Chattanooga. The telegraphic dispatch stated that "Reynold's Brigade of North Carolinians and Virginians greatly distinguished themselves," but then followed a story that it was that Brigade, which "had always done well heretofore," that gave way. Our correspondent shows that they were quietly and very deliberately withdrawn, *by orders.* Retiring a short distance they halted and again met the enemy in a fight of half an hour, in which they repulsed the yankees. The fact that "Gen Breckinridge highly complimented the Brigade, (Reynolds's) for its gallant conduct," sufficiently establishes its character.

CONGRESS.—There was a quorum in both Houses on Monday—15 Senators out of 26, and 66 Representatives out of 105.

In the Senate, a resolution and two bills were presented, having in view to call into the army all persons who have hired substitutes, first returning to them the amount paid for such substitutes; and still further to limit the exemption law.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Foote made two speeches on the currency, and presented two bills, besides making a motion for a committee of the whole to discuss the currency, which was rejected, only 9 votes for it. The subject will come up through the Finance committee.

We hoped to have the President's Message, but as yet have only received the telegraphic synopsis of it which we copy from the Wilmington Journal.

MILITARY OUTRAGES.—In the proceedings of the Legislature published in our last, the reader may have noticed the statements of Mr. McKay relative to a shameful outrage of armed men in burning the dwelling of the wife of a deserter because she could not, or would not, tell where he was, and the statements of Mr. Woodell of similar doings in Chatham. We have not heard a word about either of these occurrences, except so far as reported in the remarks of these gentlemen; and therefore do not know whether they were the acts of the Home Guard, of the Militia, or of Confederate soldiers.

In the proceedings of the House of Commons on Saturday last it will be seen that Mr. Grissom of Granville introduced a preamble and resolutions and made some remarks respecting occurrences at the recent election in Bertie. Supposing Mr. Grissom to have been correctly informed as to the facts, it appears that certain of the poll-holders took it upon themselves, not only without law but against law, to require voters to submit to a test oath. And, that a Captain of a Georgia regiment had his armed men present and arrested voters and sent them off to Richmond.

We have heard nothing of these matters, say more than of those in Harnett and Chatham, except as stated in the remarks of Mr. Grissom. But it is remarkable that the complaints from Bertie come through a member from Granville, and not through any one of the three members from that county, who are quite competent to take the proper steps for the redress of grievances in their county, and probably know what the real facts are. We hope, therefore, that it will turn out that Mr. Grissom has been misinformed, and that, (what seems to us likely,) the poll holders administered the usual oath whether the voter was a citizen of Bertie or of a county within the enemy's lines; and that the Georgia officer arrested three deserters or recusant conscripts who made their appearance at the election. We hope it will turn out thus, for we should greatly regret the attempt of any one to administer a test oath, or to use the military power to deprive any man of his rights, especially his right of franchise. These are things of which the South complains against the Lincoln government, and it is far more important to us that they be not tolerated in our own. If the investigation should show them to be true, we look to the State and Confederate Administrations for a prompt and decided rebuke of the offenders.

THE YANKEE PRISONERS.—The North continues, according to late papers, full of excitement and clamor about the alleged starvation of the prisoners in our hands, the withholding from them of provisions sent to them from the North, and their cruel treatment generally. The Richmond papers emphatically deny every allegation of the sort, but what effect can these denials have, against the excited appeals of the press, backed by great pictures of numbers of skin and bone objects? It is like throwing straws against the wind. Some such objects have doubtless really arrived at the North by flag of truce boats, but the Northern humbuggers will not for a moment admit that their emaciation was caused by either disease or wounds—it is all owing to deliberate starvation by the Confederate authorities. They get up large subscriptions and send boat loads of food and clothing to the prisoners. The Richmond papers generally oppose the reception of these supplies; but we hope and believe that the authorities will always allow them to be received and will always see that they are faithfully distributed among the prisoners for whom they are intended. Any other course would be cruel, and would justly subject our government to the reproaches now falsely cast upon it. It is true that we hear of instances in which our prisoners at the North are denied liberty to receive gratuities; and we have now before us a statement from a yankee paper, that Gen'l Schenck, commanding at Baltimore, has issued an order directing commanding officers and surgeons in charge of prisoners of war confined in his department to discredit all passes and permits to visit or to have access to or communication with, or to convey anything to such prisoners, unless the same be in writing from Col. Hoffman, Commissary General of Prisoners, at Washington, or some one duly empowered by him." Now here are almost insurmountable difficulties thrown in the way of either visiting our unfortunate prisoners or conveying anything to them. But this is all wrong, an outrage against humanity, which we hope our government will not imitate, however much it may be goaded by example and by false charges.

DEATHS OF NORTH CAROLINIANS AT GETTYSBURG.

The Rev. Jno. H. Colton, Chaplain of the 55d N. C. T., recently returned from captivity in the yankee lines, has furnished us with the following list:—

Deaths at Gettysburg General Hospital, up to Oct. 15th.
(North Carolinians.)

Lt Wm B Aycock, Co H, 52d Reg't, Aug 7th; Isaiah Ally F, 47th, Aug 14th; J E Addershold D, 55th, July 30th; Simon Atteway G, 1st, Aug 10th; Lieut W L Battle D, 57th, Aug 22d; Edw'd Becker A, 26th, Aug 12th; P S Bobbitt G, 47th, Aug 20th; Tillman Bailey K, 28th Sept 3d; L G Cobb H, 45th, Aug 16th; W W Cloe M, 21st, Sept 17th; Neverson Cone A, 4th, Aug 27th; W F Dearman I, 18th, Oct 12th; Henry Dinley K, 47th, Aug 5th; Silas Deas B, 45d, Aug 31st; J C Freeman B, 6th, Aug 28th; S P Forrest K, 26th, Sept 14th; D A Green D, 55th, Aug 20th; Wm Gilbert D, 23d, Aug 15th; J R Gainer H, 1st, Aug 23d; S H Hasty K, 23d, Sept 17th; Wm Howard, 46th, July 29th; Wesley Jolly I, 32d, Aug 15th; Anderson Keith I, 3d, Aug 1st; H C Kirkham G, 26th, Sept 1st; Capt J C Kincaid G, 52d, Aug 27th; Franklin Luther B, 52d, Sept 14th; Jno Marley K, 53d, Sept 25th; Serg't Maj M S McRae —, 28th, Aug 20; J T Malloy E, 45th, Aug 12th; Jas E Percy G, 32d, Sept 26th; B F Pitman C, 1st, Sept 14th; W B Pendley E, 6th, Sept 17th; R U Parish I, 2d Cav, Aug 30th; Sgt C H Reed F, 7th, Aug 13th; J Robinson B, 45th, Aug 14th; Jos B Robinson G, 52d, Sept 9th; R C Steele I, 7th, Aug 27th; H A Tate D, 11th, Aug 25th; Wm Tilly G, 53d, Aug 9th; T J Turner G, 2d, Aug 8th; B N Thompson I, 52d, Sept 24th; S E Weisner E, 28th; Aug 18th; B F Walker I, 30th, Aug 12th; Henry C White H, 55th, Aug 8th; Thos Williford G, 2d, Aug 5th; Jno B Walkel I, 28th, Aug 14th; Jas Martin G, 2d(?), Aug 6th; T B Thompson G, —, Aug 10th.

ABSENTEES FROM THE ARMY.—It is stated as coming from a most reliable source, that "out of 105,000, the number of names enrolled in Gen. Bragg's army, only 40,000 were present for duty."

The Hon. Ben. H. Hill, Senator in Congress from Georgia, has issued an address to his constituents, in which he says:—

"More than half the men—officers and privates—on Gen. Bragg's muster rolls, are absent from duty. They are wearing the uniform and receiving the pay, but are spending their time on railroads, at hotels, at the houses of unsuspecting kindness in the country, and taking pleasure walks and rides with thoughtless women. *This is the only reason why the battle of Chattanooga was lost.* Everywhere I find officers floating about through the country. If they had been at their posts, Gen Bragg could have been before Nashville this day. "Tell the ladies to drive them back to the army," said the faithful and noble Longstreet to me a few days ago. "They get up false leaves of absence," he added, "and the people, especially the women at home, must drive them back. Not one-fourth of them have any excuse, but indisposition to do duty, and of all the army, those who are absent are least entitled to the kindness of the people and the notice of the ladies." These are the pointed and truthful words of a great General who is always at his post.

"These men can now redeem themselves. This is the most favorable hour in the progress of this struggle to bring the war to a close.

"Let every man at once repair to the army. When the muster rolls are calling, let every man not actually disabled answer 'I'm here.' If they will but do this, Grant's army can be destroyed. He cannot live in the interior of Georgia. Don't criticize Gen. Bragg. Stay where he stays, and be as earnest in the discharge of your duties, and no one will have cause to complain, but all abundant cause to rejoice.

"In the army, the people, the old men and the ladies, ply the absentees, and make them feel what is true—that absence is *per se* disreputable. Let nothing but absolute sickness excuse.

"I do believe if all the absentees will at once return to the army, General Bragg will be able to capture or destroy Grant's army, and when this is done the war cannot last, for Lincoln's power will be broken.

"But if the absentees remain away—General Bragg, with only forty per cent. of his army present and sixty per cent. absent—cannot prevent Grant from getting a permanent foot-hold in Georgia, and no man can measure the sacrifices that must ensue.

"Gen. Lee's army is weakened almost as much from the same cause. If he shall lose a battle it will be only because officers and privates are railroad passengers, hotel guests and lady gallants, instead of being soldiers."

FOR THE OBSERVER.

At a recent called meeting of the Sons of Temperance of Springfield Division, to make a disposition of all moneys belonging to the Division, James P. Smith was appointed Chairman, and Sam'l J. Gibson requested to act as Secretary. The chair, after explaining the object of the meeting in a short and appropriate address, appointed the following gentlemen a committee to draft resolutions for the meeting, viz: G M Patterson, A W McNair and J C Smith, who, after being absent a short time, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which after some debate were adopted:

Whereas, we are deeply impressed with the belief that the widows and orphans of our deceased soldiers in our community are objects of charity, but they are among us, and the charities of our county and State and individuals will not see them suffer so long as we have any thing to go upon; which we trust in God may never fail us; and whereas, our soldiers in the field, far away from home and dear ones, who are battling for our dearest rights and liberty, are numbers of them destitute of articles of wearing apparel and many other comforts which we at home do enjoy; be it therefore resolved, 1st, That the funds belonging to this society be distributed to the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Societies within the bounds of this Division.

Resolved, 2d, That three gentlemen, viz: Dr A Patterson, Col Jas T Roper and Rev A H Adams, be appointed a committee to distribute said funds to the aforesaid Societies; viz: Dr A Patterson for Laurel Hill, Col J T Roper for Lauristburg, and Rev A H Adams for Pine Grove and St. John's Churches; and that said committee have the power to collect said funds for distribution.

Resolved, 3d, That the aforesaid committee do act as agents for carrying out the above resolutions, and that the funds be distributed equally among the aforesaid Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Societies.

Resolved, 4th, That the proceedings of this meeting be sent to the Editors of the Fayetteville Observer, with a request that they be published once in their weekly.

JAS. P. SMITH, President.

SAM'L J. GIBSON, Sec'y.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

Died, in General Hospital, No. 9, Richmond, Va., on the 21st Sept. 1863, Thomas Hargrove, in the 24th year of his age. He volunteered in the defence of his country in the Spring of 1861, soon after the commencement of the war, in Capt Faison's company, Sampson county, N. C. Soon after the company was organized it was ordered to Smithville, N. C., and Co I, in the 20th Reg't N C T. After remaining at Smithville for about 12 months, the reg't was ordered to Va., and in the battles around Richmond he received a flesh wound in the shoulder on the 27th June 1863. After he was able to travel he obtained a furlough; he returned home to see his friends and remained about 60 days. Recovering from his wound he returned to his Reg't, and was in the battle of Gettysburg, and other battles on the Rappahannock, and survived them all, and remained with his Reg't until he was taken with the disease which terminated his earthly career, which was intermittent fever. Thomas Hargrove was a young man respected by all who knew him. He professed religion in the year 1856, under the ministry of Rev. J. B. Martin, and joined the M. E. Church South, at Gosson, Sampson circuit, N. C. Conference. He was a consistent member of the church up to the time he left his home and friends to go with his comrades in arms to fight for liberty, and from letters that he wrote to his friends from the army, they believe that he has gone to his reward in the better land; that he has fought his last battle and gained a victory and a crown that shall never fade away.

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS.—Mortally wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, of which wounds they died in a short time, William M. Germon, and Larkin L. Germon, of Caldwell county, N. C., the about 19, the other 21 or 22 years old.

In Richmond, Va., from wounds received in the battle of Chancellorsville, on the 8th June, William A. Mehaffey, in the 24th year of his age, of Alexander county, Co. G, 38th Reg't.

The Eutaw (Green co., Ala.,) Whig says that corn is now selling there at $1 to $1 50 delivered at the crib.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

In the Senate, on Saturday, Mr Wright, from the Committee to whom was referred a series of resolutions in regard to the destruction of private property, reported that no further legislation was necessary on the subject. It was rejected.

Mr Patrick, from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, reported the bill for the relief of the wives and families of soldiers, recommending its passage.

Mr Young, from the Military Committee, reported the bill in relation to the Guard for Home Defence, with amendments, recommending its passage; also the bill authorizing the employment of slaves for thirty days on fortifications, recommending that it do not pass.

The Committee on adjournment reported proposing to adjourn *sine die* on Saturday the 12th instant. On motion of Mr Outlaw, the 14th was substituted for the 12th, and the resolution was then passed.

Mr Morrill, from a Select Committee, reported the bill preventing aliens from trading in this State, recommending its passage.

Mr Faison, a resolution to increase the pay of witnesses and jurors.

Mr Pitchford moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill restoring the courts was passed on yesterday. He thought if the courts were restored the Legislature had no power to restrict their jurisdiction, and he was fearful that they would have power under the act to try all civil cases, and that for that reason it would be a virtual repeal of the stay law. Mr Warren thought Mr Pitchford's fears groundless, as the present stay law provided for delay in trial and execution, and the law proposed would not interfere with it in any way. The courts had no jurisdiction except that given by law. The motion to reconsider was rejected, 11 to 27.

On Monday, Mr Faison, from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, reported the bill increasing the pay of Jurors and Witnesses, recommending its passage.

Bills were presented by: Mr Arendell, to provide for the punishment of crimes committed in counties within the lines of the enemy. Mr Patton, to pay a premium of $2 for every ten pounds of wool raised. Mr Ramsay, fixing the commissions of Sheriffs. Mr Lassiter, to amend the act in regard to the voting of soldiers. Mr Graham, a bill to punish the breaking of a dwelling house and stealing therefrom in the day time.

The bill to amend the act authorizing the Governor to employ slaves on fortifications was taken up. [Imposes a fine on owners for not furnishing their hands on requisition, and limits the term of service to thirty days.] Messrs Lassiter and Wiggins favored the bill; Messrs Young, Carraway and Hall opposed it. On motion of Mr Outlaw it was laid on the table.

The bill to tax Express Companies $500 in each county was taken up. Mr. Wiggins thought the tax too onerous and that it would have the effect of breaking up small offices, and moved to strike out and insert $100. Mr Adams opposed the amendment, and was opposed to the monopoly of the Express Company. Mr Young proposed taxing the Company five per cent. on gross receipts. Mr Hoke said he wanted the tax put up so as to exclude the concern from the State. He said that there were 1600 conscripts in the service of this company—that it was a speculating concern and he believed that the Railroads were partners in the business. Mr. Outlaw said the effect of the bill would be to tax the shipper and not benefit the State or anybody.

On motion of Mr Hoke the bill was referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

A bill to prevent aliens from trafficing or trading in this State was rejected, 29 to 5.

On Tuesday, the bill for the relief of wives and families of soldiers, passed its 3d reading. We published a bill offered by Mr. McCormick, appropriating three millions annually, but understand that a select committee, through Mr. McKay, substituted one appropriating two millions, and the Senate reduced this to one million. We are too crowded to insert the copy of the bill.

The bill to regulate prices in this State was laid on the table, on motion of Mr Brown.

In the Commons, on Saturday, Mr Avera, from a Select Committee, reported resolutions concerning impressments, which passed their 1st reading.

Mr Grissom introduced the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, it is represented to this General Assembly that on the 4th day of November last the qualified voters of the county of Bertie were peaceably assembled for the purpose of casting their votes for a member of Congress for the 1st Congressional District, and that the poll-holders of some of the precincts of said county required of many of the voters that they should take a test oath as the condition on which they might be permitted to vote, and that troops in the Confederate service from the State of Georgia were present at several precincts, under arms, and by the show of force, by the unauthorized and arbitrary arrest of citizens, and by intimidation, kept many of the said voters from the polls and from casting their votes; therefore

Resolved, That a Select Committee of five be appointed by the Speaker to investigate the facts connected therewith, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

Mr Grissom said that at the recent Congressional election armed detachments of a cavalry force from the State of Georgia, commanded by one Capt Bowers, were present at Windsor and other precincts in the county of Bertie. The poll holders at Windsor and at other precincts, in direct violation of law, proceeded to prescribe to certain citizens a test oath as a prerequisite to the exercise of the right of suffrage—an oath as to whether the voter had visited the town of Plymouth being required of many. A number of gentlemen, justly indignant at so gross an outrage, refused to vote under such unwarranted restrictions, and quietly proceeded to open polls in another part of the town, that the preference of qualified voters might be properly elicited. Capt. Bowers, entering with cocked pistol, accompanied by armed followers, arrested three of their number, detained them in camp until after sunset and sent them to Castle Thunder, Richmond, Va.

Mr Grissom proceeded to characterize this action as an infamous outrage on the right of suffrage. He asked what authority had the poll holders to require a test oath of qualified voters. That had been attempted to be legalized heretofore under the leadership of a distinguished Confederate Judicial officer, and failed. By what authority, in the very face of the Constitution, were armed troops stationed near the polls? That instrument declares that the elections shall be free. The right of suffrage is the most sacred right of freemen. If that is surrendered, for what are we struggling? What great principle in this struggle with the common enemy is of more importance? There is another reflection in this matter not complimentary to our *State pride*—this outrage was committed by Georgia soldiers. It seems that N. Carolina is attempted to be made the carcass for every carrion crow in the Confederacy. It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when the foot of the last Georgia soldier will cease to pollute the soil of North Carolina. The resolution was adopted.

Mr McAden presented a bill to amend the charter of the Piedmont Railroad Company, so as to establish the Virginia guage of width of road. Mr Grissom opposed it. It passed, 54 yeas to 27 nays.

The bill concerning salaries and fees was put on its 2d reading. Mr Mann moved to insert an additional section, allowing the State Printer fifty per cent. on former prices paid for public printing, from November 1862 to November 1864. Not agreed to, ayes 37, nays 42. The bill, after much debate and the adoption of divers amendments, passed its 2d reading.

The House concurred in a message from the Senate proposing that the two Houses adjourn *sine die* on Monday, December 14th.

The Senate, by message, announced its refusal to concur in certain nominations of Justices of the Peace made by the House, whereupon the House refused to concur in like nominations made by the Senate.

On Monday, Mr Person, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill to amend an act authorizing the employment of slave labor on works of public defence—recommending that it do not pass.

Mr Craig presented a resolution requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to use their influence to procure a repeal of the law imposing a tax in kind, and such modification of the law concerning impressments as will secure the payment of the market value for property impressed. Laid on the table on motion of Mr Flemming.

Sundry engrossed bills (from the Senate) had their first reading and were placed on the calendar.

A bill to amend Sec 85, Chap 24, of the Revised Code; a resolution in favor of the Trustees of Bladen county; a bill for the establishment of Graded Schools in North Carolina and for other purposes; and a bill to amend the 9th sec. 101st chap. Rev. Code, passed their 3d readings.

A resolution proposing modifications of the Confederate Tax Act, was rejected.

A bill to incorporate the Lockville Mining and Manufacturing Co., after a protracted discussion, and the adoption of sundry amendments, passed its second reading.

The House, on motion of Mr. Allison, reconsidered the vote by which it had agreed to adjourn *sine die* on Monday next, and its further consideration was postponed until Wednesday.

On Tuesday, a number of bills of no general importance were disposed of—passed or rejected.

ELECTION OF JUDGE.—Hon. Edwin G. Reade, of Person, an eminent lawyer and unexceptionable gentleman, was on Tuesday elected Judge of the Superior Courts, in place of Judge Bailey, resigned. The vote was, for Mr. Reade 71, Walter Leneir 35, Hon. B. S. Gaither 20, Wm H. Bailey 6, H. L. Holmes 4, scattering 2.

LATEST WAR NEWS.

The Siege of Knoxville.—BRISTOL, Dec. 7.—There is no longer any doubt that Gen. Longstreet has raised the siege of Knoxville, in consequence of heavy reinforcements received by Burnside. Firing was heard this morning in the direction of Morristown by persons at Bloomsville. Capt. Pate Everett, of the 9th Kentucky cavalry, attacked the enemy a few days since at Sallisville, Ky., and routed them completely, capturing a number of prisoners, horses and arms.

RICHMOND, Dec. 8.—We have to-day only one piece of news of interest, and that relates to the present position of General Longstreet. We are at last able to inform our readers where he is. An official [illegible] was received from him yesterday, dated "Rutledge, December 6th." Rutledge is 30 miles northeast of Knoxville, on the road to Bristol, and 100 miles from the latter place. At the date of his dispatch he had halted at Rutledge, but he will inevitably fall back to Bristol on the approach of the enemy. In his present position he is liable to an attack in front from Burnside, in flank from Cumberland Gap, and in rear from the pursuing forces of Grant, who, the telegraph informs us, are making their way towards his rear by the same route by which he himself proceeded against Burnside. Notwithstanding his apparently critical position, we think we may regard him as safe. He has the shortest route before him to Southwestern Virginia and a clear start of his pursuers.—*Examiner.*

DALTON, Dec. 6.—A gentleman from Chattanooga says the main body of the yankee army has left that place for East Tennessee. Osterhaus's division is at Huntsville. The enemy's pickets are at McFarland's Springs.

Operations in the Southwest.—MOBILE, Dec. 8.—A special to the Advertiser, dated Waterford, Dec 7, says that Gen Stephens Lee has just concluded a splendid raid on the Memphis and Charleston railroad. He drove the enemy into Pocahontas on the 2d, and crossed the forest safely to his division, on the 4th.

Gen Chalmers' command drove the enemy in a huddle over the bridge over Wolf river, slaughtering about 300 of them. The river was filled with dead horses and yankees. We captured about 400 prisoners. Our loss was 25 killed and 75 wounded.

Affairs on the Rapidan.—ORANGE C. H., Dec. 7.—The reports of the enemy retiring behind the Rappahannock are confirmed by later intelligence. They are tearing up the railroad between the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers.

From Charleston.—CHARLESTON, Dec. 7.—No change in affairs. A shell fire has been kept up between the enemy's batteries and our own to-day. No casualties.

The 64th Va. regiment lost about 80 men by a surprise in Lee county, Va., last week. It was in ambush for some yankees, but the latter turned the tables.

The Alabama Legislature has passed a joint resolution to cut up the carpets in the State House to make blankets for the soldiers.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

NEAR OAK PLAINS, N. C.

MESSRS. E. J. HALE & SONS: Permit me to return through your paper, our thanks to Mrs. J. H. Hawley of your place, for the many comforts we have received from her hands. It is too often the case that we poor privates are not thought of when good things are sharing; we often see large boxes of comforts and good things addressed to Maj. B, or Colonel C, and we poor privates have to stand off and content ourselves with licking our lips; but thank the Lord there are some that remember us, and although they come like angel *a visits*, still we highly appreciate them when they do come. We are looking for a fight soon, we have been in a few brushes with the yankee pickets to-day; we are in sight of them nearly all the time.

A PRIVATE IN Co C.

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At the residence of the b

Message of President Davis.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States:

The necessity for legislative action, arising out of the important events that have marked the interval since your adjournment, and my desire to have the aid of your counsel on other matters of grave public interest, render your presence at this time more than ordinarily welcome. Indeed, but for serious obstacles to convoking you in extraordinary session, and the necessity for my own temporary absence from the seat of government, I would have invited you to an earlier meeting than that fixed at the date of your adjournment.

Grave reverses befell our arms soon after your departure from Richmond. Early in July our strongholds at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, together with their entire garrisons, capitulated to the combined land and naval forces of the enemy. The important interior position of Jackson next fell into their temporary possession. Our unsuccessful assault on the post at Helena was followed, at a later period, by the invasion of Arkansas; and the retreat of our army from Little Rock gave to the enemy the control of the important valley in which it is situated.

The resolute spirit of the people soon rose superior to the temporary despondency naturally resulting from these reverses. The gallant troops, so ably commanded in the States beyond the Mississippi, inflicted repeated defeats on the invading armies in Louisiana and on the coast of Texas. Detachments of troops and active bodies of partisans kept up so effective a war on the Mississippi river as practically to destroy its value as an avenue of commerce.

The determined and successful defence of Charleston against the joint land and naval operations of the enemy, afforded an inspiring example of our ability to repel the attacks even of the iron-clad fleet on which they chiefly rely, while on the Northern frontier our success was still more marked.

The able commander who conducted the campaign in Virginia, determined to meet the threatened advance on Richmond, for which the enemy had made long and costly preparations, by forcing their armies to cross the Potomac and fight in defence of their own capital and home. Transferring the battle-field to their own soil, he succeeded in compelling their rapid retreat from Virginia, and in the hard-fought battle of Gettysburg inflicted such severity of punishment as disabled them from early renewal of the campaign as originally projected. Unfortunately, the communications on which our general relied for receiving his supplies of munitions were interrupted by extraordinary floods, which so swelled the Potomac as to render impassable the fords by which his advance had been made, and he was thus forced to a withdrawal, which was conducted with deliberation, after securing large trains of captured supplies, and with a constant but unaccepted tender of battle. On more than one occasion the enemy has since made demonstrations of a purpose to advance, invariably followed by a precipitate retreat to entrenched lines on the approach of our forces.

The effective check thus offered to the advance of the invaders at all points, was such as to afford hope of their early expulsion from portions of the territory previously occupied by them, when the country was painfully surprised by the intelligence that the officer in command of Cumberland Gap had surrendered that important and easily defensible pass without firing a shot, upon the summons of a force still believed to have been inadequate to its reduction, and when reinforcements were within supporting distance and had been ordered to his aid. The entire garrison, including the commander, being still held prisoners by the enemy, I am unable to suggest any explanation of this disaster, which laid open Eastern Tennessee and Southwestern Virginia to hostile operations, and broke the line of communication between the seat of government and Middle Tennessee. This easy success of the enemy was followed by an advance of Gen Rosecrans into Georgia, and our army evacuated Chattanooga and availed itself of the opportunity thus afforded of winning on the field of Chickamauga one of the most brilliant and decisive victories of the war. This signal defeat of Gen Rosecrans was followed by his retreat into Chattanooga, where his imperilled position had the immediate effect of relieving the pressure of the invasion at other points, forcing the concentration for his relief of large bodies of troops withdrawn from the armies in the Mississippi Valley and in Northern Virginia. The combined forces thus accumulated against us in Tennessee, so greatly outnumbered our army as to encourage the enemy to attack. After a long and severe battle, in which great carnage was inflicted on him, some of our troops inexplicably abandoned a position of great strength, and by a disorderly retreat compelled the commander to withdraw the forces elsewhere successful, and finally to retire with his whole army to a position some 20 or 30 miles to the rear. It is believed that if the troops who yielded to the assault, had fought with the valor which they had displayed on previous occasions, and which was manifested in this battle on the other parts of the line, the enemy would have been repulsed with very great slaughter, and our country would have escaped the misfortune, and the army the mortification, of the first defeat that has resulted from misconduct by the troops. In the meantime, the army of Gen Burnside was driven from all its field positions in Eastern Tennessee, and forced to retreat into its entrenchments at Knoxville, where, for some weeks, it was threatened with capture by the forces under Gen Longstreet. No information has reached me of the final result of the operations of our commander, though intelligence has arrived of his withdrawal from that place.

While, therefore, our success in driving the enemy from our soil has not equalled the expectations confidently entertained at the commencement of the campaign, his further progress has been checked. If we are forced to regret losses in Tennessee and Arkansas, we are not without ground for congratulation on successes in Louisiana and Texas. On the seacoast he is exhausted by vain efforts to capture our ports, while on the northern frontier he has in turn felt the pressure and dreads the renewal of invasion. The indomitable courage and perseverence of the people in the defence of their homes have been nobly attested by the unanimity with which the Legislatures of Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia have recently given expression to the popular sentiment; and like manifestations may be anticipated from all the States. Whatever obstinacy may be displayed by the enemy in his desperate sacrifices of money, life and liberty in the hope of enslaving us, the experience of mankind has too conclusively shown the superior endurance of those who fight for home, liberty and independence, to permit any doubt of the result.

Foreign Relations.—I regret to inform you that there has been no improvement in the state of our relations with foreign countries since my message in January last. On the contrary, there has been a still greater divergence in the conduct of European nations from that practical impartiality which alone deserves the name of neutrality, and their action, in some cases, has assumed a character positively unfriendly.

You have heretofore been informed that, by common understanding, the initiative in all action touching the contest on this continent had been left by foreign powers to the two great maritime nations of western Europe, and that the governments of these two nations had agreed to take no measures without previous concert. The result of these arrangements has, therefore, placed it in the power of either France or England to obstruct at pleasure the recognition to which the Confederacy is justly entitled, or even to prolong the continuance of hostilities on this side of the Atlantic, if the policy of either could be promoted by the postponement of peace. Each, too, thus became possessed of great influence in so shaping the general exercise of neutral rights in Europe, as to render them subservient to the purpose of aiding one of the belligerents to the detriment of the other. I referred, at your last session, to some of the leading points in the course pursued by professed neutrals, which betrayed a partizan leaning to the side of our enemies, but events have since occurred, which induce me to renew the subject in greater detail than was then deemed necessary. In calling to your attention the action of those governments, I shall refer to the documents appended to President Lincoln's message, and to their own correspondence, as disclosing the true nature of their policy, and the motives which guided it. To this course no exception can be taken, inasmuch as our attention has been invited to those sources of information by their official publication.

In May 1861, the government of Her Britanic Majesty informed our enemies that it had not "allowed any other than an intermediate position on the part of the Southern States," and assured them "that the sympathies of this country (Great Britian) were rather with the North than with the South."

On the 1st day of June 1861, the British Government interdicted the use of its ports "to armed ships and privateers, both of the United States and the so-called Confederate States," with their prizes. The Secretary of State of the United States fully appreciated the character and motive of this interdiction, when he observed to Lord Lyons, who communicated it, "that this measure, and that of the same character which had been adopted by France, would probably prove a death blow to Southern privateering."

On the 12th of June 1861, the United States Minister de[illegible] informed Her Majesty's Secretary for Foreign [illegible] *people speak* fact of his having held interviews with *them.*" What of this government had given "great in 1861. Le[illegible]d that a protraction of this relation the United States "as hostile in

From the [illegible]come corresponding action accord- *"The Old D[illegible]* to this intimation Her Majesty's tern Sentinel, th[illegible]inister that "he had no expec- have loved the old [illegible]more."

the United State[illegible]d on the 19th and 27th April cording to the Com[illegible]

1861, President Lincoln proclaimed the blockade of the entire coast of the Confederacy, extending from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, embracing according to the returns of the United States coast survey, a coast line of 3,549 statute miles, on which the number of rivers, bays, harbors, inlets, sounds and passes is 189. The navy possessed by the United States for enforcing this blockade was stated in the reports communicated by President Lincoln to the Congress of the United States to consist of 24 vessels of all classes in commission, of which half were in distant seas. The absurdity of the pretension of such a blockade, in face of the authoritative declaration of the maritime rights of neutrals made at Paris in 1856, was so glaring that the attempt was regarded as an experiment on the forbearance of neutral powers, which they would promptly resist. This conclusion was justified by the fact that the Governments of France and Great Britain determined that it was necessary for their interests to obtain from both belligerents "securities concerning the proper treatment of neutrals." In the instructions which "confided the negotiation on this matter," to the British Consul in Charleston, he was informed that "the most perfect accord on this question exists between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the Emperor of the French," and these instructions were accompanied by a copy of the dispatch of the British Foreign office of the 18th May 1861, stating that there was no difference of opinion between Great Britain and the United States as to the validity of the principles enunciated in the fourth article of the declaration of Paris in reference to blockades. Your predecessors of the Provisional Congress had, therefore, no difficulty in proclaiming, nor I in approving, the resolutions which abandoned in favor of Great Britain and France our right to capture enemy's property when covered by the flags of those powers. The "securities" desired by those governments were understood by us to be required from both belligerents. Neutrals were exposed on our part to the exercise of the belligerent right of capturing their vessels when conveying the property of our enemies. They were exposed, on the part of the United States, to interruption in their unquestioned right of trading with us by the declaration of the paper blockade above referred to. We had no reason to doubt the good faith of the proposal made to us, nor to suspect that we were to be the only parties bound by its acceptance. It is true that the instructions of the neutral powers informed their agents that it was "essential under present circumstances that they should act with great caution in order to avoid raising the question of the recognition of the new Confederation," and that the understanding on the subject did not assume for that reason the shape of a formal convention. But it was not deemed just by us to decline the arrangement on this ground, as little more than ninety days had then elapsed since the arrival of our commissioners in Europe, and neutral nations were fairly entitled to a reasonable delay in acting on a subject of so much importance, and which, from their point of view, presented difficulties that we, perhaps, did not fully appreciate. Certain it is that the action of this government on the occasion and its faithful performance of its own engagements have been such as to entitle it to expect on the part of those who sought in their own interests a mutual understanding, the most scrupulous adherence to their own promises. I feel constrained to inform you that in this expectation we have been disappointed, and that not only have the governments which entered into these arrangements yielded to the prohibition against commerce with us, which has been dictated by the United States in defiance of the law of nations, but that this concession of their neutral rights to our detriment has on more than one occasion been claimed in intercourse with our enemies, as an evidence of friendly feeling towards them. A few extracts from the correspondence of Her Majesty's Chief Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will suffice to show marked encouragement to the United States to persevere in its paper blockade, and unmistakable intimations that Her Majesty's Government would not contest its validity.

On the 21st of May, 1861, Earl Russell pointed out to the United States Minister in London, that "the blockade might no doubt be made effective, considering the small number of harbors on the Southern coast, even though the extent of 3,000 miles were comprehended in terms of that blockade."

On the 14th of January, 1862, Her Majesty's Minister in Washington communicated to his government, that in extenuation of the barbarous attempt to destroy the port of Charleston by sinking a stone fleet in the harbor, Mr Seward had explained "that the Government of the United States had last spring, with a navy very little prepared for so extensive an operation, undertaken to blockade upwards of 3,000 miles of coast. The Secretary of the Navy had reported that he could stop up the 'large holes' by means of his ships, but that he could not stop up the 'small ones.' It had been found necessary therefore, to close some of the numerous small inlets by sinking vessels in the channel."

On the 6th May, 1862, so far from claiming the right of British subjects as neutrals to trade with us as belligerents, and to disregard the blockade on the ground of this explicit confession, by our enemy of his inability to render it effective, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs claimed credit with the United States for friendly action in respecting it. His Lordship stated that "the United States Government, on the allegation of a rebellion pervading from nine to eleven States of the Union, have now, for more than twelve months, endeavored to maintain a blockade of three thousand miles of coast. This blockade, kept up irregularly, but when enforced, enforced severely, has seriously injured the trade and manufactures of the United Kingdom. Thousands are now obliged to resort to the poor rates for subsistence owing to this blockade. Yet Her Majesty's Government have never sought to take advantage of the obvious imperfections of this blockade, in order to declare it ineffective. They have, to the loss and detriment of the British nation, scrupulously observed the duties of Great Britain towards a friendly State."

Again, on the 22d September, 1862, the same noble Earl asserted that the United States were "very far indeed," from being in "a condition to ask other nations to assume that every port of the coasts of the so-styled Confederate States is effectively blockaded."

When, in view of these facts, of the obligation of the British nation to adhere to the pledge made by their government at Paris, in 1856, and renewed to this Confederacy in 1861; and of these repeated and explicit avowals of the imperfection, irregularity and inefficiency of the pretended blockade of our coast, I directed our Commissioner at London to call upon the British Government to redeem its promise and to withheld its moral aid and sanction from the flagrant violation of public law committed by our enemies, we were informed that her Majesty's Government could not regard the blockade of the Southern ports as having been otherwise than "practically effective," in February, 1862, and that the manner in which it has since been enforced, gives to neutral governments no excuse for asserting that the blockade has not been efficiently maintained." We were further informed, when we insisted that by the terms of our agreement, no blockade was to be considered effective unless "sufficient really to prevent access to our coast," that the declaration of Paris was in truth directed against blockades not sustained by any actual force, or sustained by a notoriously inadequate force, such as the occasional appearance of a man-of-war in the offing, or the like."

It was impossible that this mode of construing an agreement, so as to make its terms mean almost the reverse of what they plainly conveyed, could be considered otherwise than as a notification of the refusal of the British Government to remain bound by its agreement, or longer to respect those articles of the declaration of Paris, which had been repeatedly denounced by British statesmen, and had been characterized by Earl Russell, as "very imprudent" and "most unsatisfactory."

If any doubt remained of the motives by which the British Ministry have been actuated in their conduct, it would be completely dissipated by the distinct avowals and explanations contained in the published speech recently made by Her Majesty's Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In commenting on the remonstrances of this government against the countenance given to an ineffective blockade, the following language is used: "It is said we have, contrary to the declarations of Paris, contrary to international law, permitted the blockade of three thousand miles of American coast. It is quite true we did so, and the presumable cause of complaint is quite true, that although the blockade is kept up by a sufficient number of ships, yet these ships were sent into the United States navy in a hurry, and are ill fitted for the purpose, and did not keep up so completely and effectively as was required, an effective blockade."

This unequivocal confession of violation, both of agreement with us and of international law, is defended on grounds, the validity of which we submit with confidence to the candid judgment of mankind.

These grounds are thus stated: "Still looking at the law of nations, it was a blockade, we, as a great belligerent power in former times, should have acknowledged. We, ourselves, had a blockade of upwards of 2,000 miles, and it did seem to me that we were bound in justice to the Federal States of America to acknowledge that blockade. But there was another reason which weighed with me. Our people were suffering severely for the want of that material which was the main staff of their industry, and it was a question of self-interest whether we should not break the blockade. But in my opinion the men of England would have been forever infamous if, for the sake of their own interest, they had violated the law of nations and made war in conjunction with these slaveholding States of America against the Federal States."

In the second of these reasons our rights are not involved; although it may be permitted to observe that the conduct of governments has not heretofore to my knowledge been guided by the principle that it is infamous to assert their rights, whenever the invasion of those rights creates severe suffering among their people, and injuriously affects great interests. But the intimation that relations with these States would be discreditable because they are slaveholding, would probable have been omitted if the official personage who has published it to the world had remembered that these States were, when colonies, made slaveholding by the direct exercise of the power of Great Britain whose dependencies they were, and whose interests in the slave trade were then supposed to require that her colonies should be made slave-holding.

But the other ground stated is of a very grave character. It asserts that a violation of the law of nations by Great Britain in 1807, when that government declared a paper blockade of 2,000 miles of coast (a violation then defended by her courts and jurists on the sole ground that her action was retaliatory,) affords a justification for a similar outrage on neutral rights by the United States, in 1861, for which no palliation can be suggested; and that Great Britain "is bound, in justice to the Federal States," to make return for the war waged against her by the United States in resistance of of her illegal blockade of 1807, by an acquiescence in the Federal illegal blockade of 1861. The most alarming feature in this statement is its admission of a just claim on the part of the United States to require of Great Britain, during this war a disregard of the recognized principles of modern public law and of her own compacts whenever any questionable conduct of Great Britain, "in former times," can be cited as a precedent. It is not inconsistent with respect and admiration for the great people whose government has given us this warning, to suggest that their history, like that of mankind in general, offers exceptional instances of indefensible conduct. In former times;" and we may well deny the morality of violating recent engagements through deference to the evil precedents of the past.

After defending, in the manner just stated, the course of the British Government on the subject of the blockade, Her Majesty's Foreign Secretary takes care to leave no doubt of the further purpose of the British Government to present our purchase of vessels in Great Britain, while supplying our enemies with rifles and other munitions of war, and states the intention to apply to Parliament for the furtherance of this design. He gives to the United States the assurance that he will do in their favor not only "everything that the law of nations requires, everything that the present foreign enlistment act requires," but that he will ask the sanction of Parliament "to further measures that Her Majesty's ministers may still add." This language is so unmistakeably an official exposition of the policy adopted by the British Government in relation to our affairs, that the duty imposed on me by the Constitution, of giving you from time to time, "information of the state of the Confederacy," would not have been performed if I had failed to place it distinctly before you.

I refer you for fuller details on this whole subject to the correspondence of the State Department, which accompanies this message. The facts which I have briefly narrated are, I trust, sufficient to enable you to appreciate the true nature of the neutrality professed in this war. It is not in my power to apprise you to what extent the Government of France shares the views so unreservedly avowed by that of Great Britain, on published correspondence of the French Government on the subject having been received. No public protest nor opposition, however, has been made by His Imperial Majesty against the prohibition to trade with us, imposed on French citizens by the paper blockade of the United States, although I have reason to believe that an unsuccessful attempt was made on his part to secure the assent of the British Government to a course of action more consonant with the dictates of public law and with the demands of justice towards us.

The partiality of Her Majesty's Government in favor of our enemies has been further evinced in the marked difference of its conduct on the subject of the purchase of supplies by the two belligrents. This difference has been conspicuous since the very commencement of the war. As early as the 1st May 1861, the British Minister in Washington was informed by the Secretary of State of the United States that he had sent agents to England, and that others would go to France to purchase arms, and this fact was communicated to the British Foreign Office, which interposed no objection. Yet in October of the same year, Earl Russell entertained the complaint of the United States minister in London, that the Confederate States were importing contraband of war from the island of Nassau, directed inquiry into the matter and obtained a report from the authorities of the island denying the allegations, which report was enclosed to Mr Adams, and received by him as satisfactory evidence to dissipate "the suspicion naturally thrown upon the authorities of Nassau by that unwarrantable act." So, too, when the Confederate Government purchased in Great Britain, as a neutral country, (and with strict observance both of the law of nations and the municipal law of Great Britain,) vessels which were subsequently armed and commissioned as vessels of war, after they had been far removed from English waters, the British Government, in violation of its own laws and in deference to the importunate demands of the United States, made an ineffectual attempt to seize one vessel, and did actually seize and detain another which touched at Nassau, on her way to a Confederate port, and subjected her to an unfounded prosecution at the very time when cargoes of munitions of war were being openly shipped from British ports to New York, to be used in warfare against us. Even now the public journals bring intelligence that the British Government has ordered the seizure, in a British port, of two vessels, on the suspicion that they may have been sold to this Government, and that they may be hereafter armed and equipped in our service, while British subjects are engaged in Ireland by tens of thousands to proceed to the United States for warfare against the Confederacy, in defiance both of the law of nations and of the express terms of the British statutes, and are transported in British ships, without an effort at concealment, to the ports of the United States, there to be armed with rifles imported from Great Britain and to be employed against our people in a war for conquest. No royal prerogative is invoked, no executive interference is interposed against this flagrant breach of municipal and international law, on the part of our enemies, while strained constructions are placed on existing statutes, new enactments proposed, and questionable expedients devised for precluding the possibility of purchase, by this Government, of vessels that are useless for belligerent purposes, unless hereafter armed and equipped outside of the neutral jurisdiction of Great Britain.

For nearly three years this government has exercised unquestioned jurisdiction over many millions of willing and united people. It has met and defeated vast armies of invaders, who have in vain sought its subversion. Supported by the confidence and affection of its citizens, the Confederacy has lacked no element which distinguishes an independent nation, according to the principles of public law. Its legislative, executive and judicial departments, each in its sphere, have performed their appropriate functions with a regularity as undisturbed as in a time of profound peace, and the whole energies of the people have been developed in the organization of vast armies, while their rights and liberties have rested secure under the protection of the courts of justice. This Confederacy is either independent, or it is a dependency of the United States, for no other earthly power claims the right to govern it. Without one historic fact on which the pretension can rest, without one line or word of treaty or covenant, which can give color to title, the United States have asserted, and the British Government has chosen to concede, that these sovereign States are dependencies of the gov't which is administered at Washington. Great Britain has accordingly entertained with that government the closest and most intimate relations, while refusing, on its demand, ordinary amicable intercourse with us, and has, under arrangements made with the other nations of Europe, not only denied our just claim of admission into the family of nations, but interposed a passive, though effectual bar, to the acknowledgment of our rights by other powers. So soon as it had become apparent, by the declarations of the British ministers, in the debates of the British Parliament in July last, that Her Majesty's Government was determined to persist indefinitely in a course of policy which under professions of neutrality, had become subservient to the designs of our enemy, I felt it my duty to recall the Commissioner formerly accredited to that court, and the correspondence on the subject is submitted to you.

It is due to you and to our country that this full statement should be made of the just grounds which exist for dissatisfaction with the conduct of the British Government. I am well aware that we are unfortunately without adequate remedy for the injustice under which we have suffered at the hands of a powerful nation, at a juncture when our entire resources are absorbed in the defence of our lives, liberties and independence, against an enemy possessed of greatly superior numbers and material resources. Claiming no favor, desiring no aid, conscious of our own ability to defend our own rights, against the utmost efforts of an infuriate foe, we had thought it not extravagant to expect that assistance would be withheld from our enemies, and that the conduct of Foreign nations would be marked by a genuine impartiality between the belligerents. It was not supposed that a professed neutrality would be so conducted as to justify the Foreign Secretary of the British nation, in explaining, in correspondence with our enemies, how "the impartial observance of neutral obligations by Her Majesty's Government has thus been exceedingly advantageous to the cause of the more powerful of the two contending parties." The British Government may deem this war a favorable occasion for establishing, by the temporary sacrifice of their neutral rights, a precedent which shall justify the future exercise of those extreme belligerent pretensions that their naval power renders so formidable. The opportunity for obtaining the tacit assent of European Governments to a line of conduct which ignores the obligations of the declaration of Paris, and treats that instrument rather as a theoretical exposition of principles than a binding agreement, may be considered by the British Ministry as justifying them in seeking a great advantage for their own country at the expense of ours. But we cannot permit without protest, the assertion that international law or morals regard as "impartial neutrality," conduct avowed to be "exceedingly advantageous" to one of the belligerents.

I have stated that we are without adequate remedy against the injustice under which we suffer. There are but two measures that seem applicable to the present condition of our relations with neutral powers. One is, to imitate the wrong of which we complain, to retaliate by the declaration of a paper blockade of the coast of the United States, and to capture all neutral vessels trading with their ports that our cruisers can intercept on the high seas. This measure I cannot recommend. It is true that, in so doing, we should but follow the precedents set by Great Britain and France in the Berlin and Milan decrees and the British orders in council at the beginning of the present century. But it must be remembered that we, ourselves, protested against those very measures as signal violations of the law of nations, and declared the attempts to excuse them, on the ground of their being retaliatory, utterly insufficient. Those blockades are now quoted by writers on public law as a standing reproach on the good name of the nations who were betrayed by temporary exasperation into wrong doing, and ought to be regarded rather as errors to be avoided, than as examples to be followed.

The other measure is not open to this objection. The second article of the declaration of Paris, which provides "that the neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war," was a new concession by belligerents in favor of neutrals, and not simply the enunciation of an acknowledged pre-existing rule, like the fourth article, which referred to blockades. To this concession we bound ourselves by the convention with Great Britain and France, which took the shape of the resolutions adopted by your predecessors on the 13th August 1861. The consideration tendered us for that concession has been withheld. We have, therefore, the undeniable right to refuse longer to remain bound by a compact which the other party refuses to fulfil. But we should not forget that war is but temporary, and that we desire that peace shall be permanent. The future policy of the Confederacy must ever be to uphold neutral rights to their full extent. The principles of the declaration of Paris commend themselves to our judgment as more just, more humane, and more consonant with modern civilization than those belligerent pretensions which great naval powers have heretofore sought to introduce into the maritime code. To forego our undeniable right to the exercise of these pretensions is a policy higher, worthier of us and of our cause, than to revoke our adhesion to principles that we approve. Let our hope for redress rest rather on a returning sense of justice which cannot fail to awaken a great people to the consciousness, that the war in which we are engaged ought rather to be made a reason for forbearance of advantage, than an occasion for the unfriendly conduct of which we make just complaint.

The events of the last year have produced important changes in the condition of our Southern neighbor. The occupation of the capital of Mexico by the French army, and the establishment of a provisional government followed by a radical change in the constitution of the country, have excited lively interest. Although preferring our own government and institutions to those of other countries, we can have no disposition to contest the exercise by them of the same right of self government which we assert for ourselves. If the Mexican people prefer a monarchy to a republic, it is our plain duty cheerfully to acquiesce in their decision, and to evince a sincere and friendly interest in their prosperity. If, however, the Mexicans prefer maintaining their former institutions, we have no reason to apprehend any obstacle to the free exercise of their choice. The Emperor of the French has solemnly disclaimed any purpose to impose on Mexico a form of government not acceptable to the nation; and the eminent personage to whom the throne has been tendered, declines its acceptance, unless the offer be sanctioned by the suffrages of the people. In either event, therefore, we may confidently expect the continuance of those peaceful relations which have been maintained on the frontier, and even a large development of the commerce already existing to the mutual advantage of the two countries.

It has been found necessary since your adjournment to take action on the subject of certain foreign consuls within the Confederacy. The nature of this action and the reasons on which it was based are so fully exhibited in the correspondence of the State Department which is transmitted to you, that no additional comment is required.

In connection with this subject of our relations with foreign countries it is deemed opportune to communicate my views in reference to the treaties made by the government of the United States at a date anterior to our separation, and which were consequently binding on us as well as on foreign powers when the separation took effect. It was partly with a view to entering into such arrangements as the change in our government had made necessary, that we felt it our duty to send commissioners abroad, for the purpose of entering into the negotiations proper to fix the relative rights and obligations of the parties to those treaties. As this tender on our part has been declined, as foreign nations have refused us the benefit of the treaties to which we were parties, they certainly have ceased to be binding on us, and in my opinion, our relations with European nations are, therefore, now controlled exclusively by the general rules of the law of nations. It is proper to add that these remarks are intended to apply solely to treaty obligations towards foreign governments, and have no reference to rights of individuals.

Finances.—The state of the public finances is such as to demand your earliest and most earliest attention. I need hardly say that a prompt and efficacious remedy for the present condition of the currency is necessary to the successful performance of the functions of government. Fortunately, the resources of our country are so ample, and the spirit of our people so devoted to its cause, that they are ready to make any necessary contribution. Relief is thus entirely within our reach if we have the wisdom to legislate in such manner as to render available the means at our disposal.

At the commencement of the war we were far from anticipating the magnitude and duration of the struggle in which we were engaged. The most sagacious foresight could not have predicted that the passions of the Northern people would lead them blindly to the sacrifice of life, treasure and liberty, in so vain a hope as that of subjugating thirteen independent States, inhabited by many millions of people, whose birthright of freedom is dearer to them than life. A long exemption from direct taxation by the general government had created an aversion to its raising revenue by any other means than by duties on imports, and it was supposed that these duties would be ample for current peace expenditure, while the means for conducting the war could be raised almost exclusively by the use of the public credit.

The first action of the Provisional Congress was, therefore, confined to passing a tariff law and to raising a sum of fifteen millions of dollars by loan, with a pledge of a small export duty on cotton to provide for the redemption of the debt.

At its second session war was declared to exist between the Confederacy and the United States, and provision was made for the issue of twenty millions of dollars in treasury notes and for borrowing thirty millions of dollars on bonds. The tariff was revised, and preparatory measures taken to enable the Congress to levy internal taxation at its succeeding session. These laws were passed in May, and the States of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas having joined the Confederacy, the Congress adjourned to meet in the city of Richmond in the following month of July.

Prior to the assembling of your predecessors in Richmond at their third session, near the end of July 1861, the President of the United States had developed in his message the purpose "to make the contest a short and decisive one," and had called on Congress for 400,000 men and four hundred millions of dollars. The Congress had exceeded the Executive recommendation, and had authorized the levy of half a million of volunteers, besides largely increasing the regular land and naval forces of the United States. The necessity thus first became urgent that a financial scheme should be devised on a basis sufficiently large for the vast proportions of the contest with which we were threatened. Knowing that the struggle, instead of being "short and decisive," would be indefinite in duration, and could only end when the United States should awaken from their delusion of conquest, a permanent system was required, fully adapted to the great exigencies before us.

The plan devised by Congress at that time was based on the theory of issuing treasury notes convertible at the pleasure of the holder into eight per cent. bonds, the interest of which was to be payable in coin, and it was correctly assumed that any tendency to depreciation that might arise from over issue of the currency, would be checked by the constant exercise of the holder's right to fund the notes at a liberal interest, payable in specie. This system depended for success on the continued ability of government to pay the interest in specie; and means were, therefore, provided for that purpose in the law authorizing the issues. An internal tax, targed a war tax, was levied, the proceeds of which, together with the revenue from imports, were deemed sufficient for the object designed. This scheme required for its operation that our commerce with foreign nations should not be suspended. It was not to be anticipated that such suspension would be permitted otherwise than by an effective blockade; and it was absurd to suppose that a blockade "sufficient really to prevent access" to our entire coast, could be maintained.

We had the means, therefore, (if neutral nations had not combined to aid our enemies by the sanction of an illegal prohibition on their commerce,) to secure the receipt into the Treasury of coin sufficient to pay the interest on the bonds, and thus maintain the Treasury notes at rates nearly equal to par in specie. So long as the interest continued to be thus paid with the reserve of coin pre-existing in our country, experience sustained the expectations of those who devised the system. Thus, on the first of the following December, coin had only reached a premium of about twenty per cent, although it had already become apparent that the commerce of the country was threatened with permanent suspension by reason of the conduct of neutral nations, and that the necessary result must be the exhaustion of our specie reserve. Wheat, in the beginning of the year 1862 was selling at one dollar and thirty cents per bushel, not exceeding, therefore, its average price in time of peace. The other agricultural products of the country were at similar moderate rates, thus indicating that there was no excess of circulation, and that the rate of premium on specie was heightened by the exceptional causes which tended to its exhaustion without the possibility of renewing the supply.

This review of the policy of your predecessors is given in justice to them, and it exhibits the condition of the finances at the date when the permanent government was organized.

In the meantime the popular aversion to internal taxation by the general government had influenced the legislation of the several States, and in only three of them, South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas, were the taxes actually collected from the people. The quotas devolving upon the remaining States had been raised by the issue of bonds, and State Treasury notes, and the public debt of the country was thus actually increased instead of being diminished by the taxation imposed by Congress.

Neither at the first nor second session of the present Congress were means provided by taxation for maintaining the government, the legislation being confined to authorising further sales of bonds and issues of treasury notes. Although repeated efforts were made to frame a proper system of taxation, we have confronted with an obstacle which did not exist for your predecessors, and which created grave embarrassment in devising any scheme of taxation. About two-thirds of the entire taxable property of the Confederate States consist of lands and leaves. The general power of taxation vested in Congress by the provisional Constitution, (which was to be only temporary in its operation,) was not restricted by any other condition than that "all duties, imposts and excises should be uniform throughout the States of the Confederacy." But the permanent Constitution sanctioning the principle that taxation and representation ought to rest on the same basis, specially provides that "representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all slaves."

It was further ordered that a census should be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress, and that "no capitation or other direct tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration hereinbefore directed to be taken.

It is plain that under these provisions, capitation and direct taxes must be levied in proportion to the census when made. It is also plain that the duty is imposed on Congress to provide for making a census prior to the 22d February, 1865. It may further be stated that according to the received construction of the Constitution of the United States, (a construction acquiesced in for upwards of sixty years,) taxes on lands and slaves are direct taxes, and the conclusion seems necessarily to be that, in repeating, without modification, in our Constitution, this language of the Constitution of 1787, our convention intended to attach to it the meaning which had been sanctioned by long and uninterrupted acquiescence.

So long as there seemed to be a probability of being able to carry out these provisions of the Constitution in their entirety, and in conformity with the intentions of its authors, there was an obvious difficulty in framing any system of taxation. A law which should exempt from the burthen two-thirds of the property of the country would be as unfair to the owners of the remaining third as it would be inadequate to meet the requirements of the public service.

The urgency of the need was such, however, that, after very great embarrassment, and more than three months of assiduous labor, you succeeded in framing the law of the 24th April 1863, by which you sought to reach, so far as was practicable, every resource of the country except the capital invested in real estate and slaves, and by means of an income tax and a tax in kind on the produce of the soil, as well as by licenses on business occupations and professions, to command resources sufficient for the wants of the country. But a very large proportion of these resources could only be made available at the close of the present and the commencement of the ensuing year, while the intervening exigencies permitted no delay. In this state of affairs, superinduced almost unavoidably by the fortunes of the war in which we are engaged, the issues of treasury notes have been increased until the currency in circulation amounts to more than six hundred millions of dollars, or more than three-fold the amount required by the business of the country.

I need not enlarge upon the evil effects of this condition of things. They are unfortunately but too apparent. In addition to the difficulty presented to the necessary operations of the government, and the efficient conduct of the war, the most deplorable of all its results is undoubtedly its corrupting influence on the morals of the people. The possession of large amounts of treasury notes has naturally led to a desire for investment, and with a constantly increasing volume of currency, there has been an equally constant increase of price in all objects of investment. This effect has stimulated purchase by the apparent certainty of profit, and a spirit of speculation has thus been fostered, which has so debasing an influence, and such ruinous consequences, that it is our highest duty to remove the cause, and no measures directed to that end can be too prompt or too stringent.

Reverting to the constitutional provisions already cited, the question recurs whether it be possible to execute the duty of apportioning taxation in accordance with the census ordered to be made as a basis. So long as this appeared to be practicable, none can deny the propriety of your course in abstaining from the imposition of direct taxes till you could exercise the power in the precise mode pointed out by the terms of the fundamental law. But it is obvious that there are many duties imposed by the Constitution, which depend for their fulfillment on the undisturbed possession of the territory within which they are to be performed. The same instrument which orders a census to be made in all the States imposes the duty on the Confederacy "to guarantee to every State a republican form of government." It enjoins on us "to protect each State from invasion," and while declaring that its great objects and purposes are "to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," it confers the means and thereby imposes on us the paramount duty of effecting its intent, by "laying and collecting taxes, duties, imposts and excises, necessary to pay the debts, provide for the common defence, and carry on the government of the Confederate States."

None would pretend that the Constitution is violated because, by reason of the presence of hostile armies, we are unable to guarantee a republican form of government to those States or portions of States now temporarily held by the enemy, and as little justice would there be in imputing blame for the failure to make the census, when that failure is attributable to causes not foreseen by the authors of the constitution, and beyond our control. The general intent of our constitutional charter is unquestionably that the property of the country is to be taxed in order to raise revenue for the common defence, and the special mode provided for levying this tax is impracticable from unforeseen causes. It is, in my judgment, our primary duty to execute the general intent expressed by the terms of the instrument which we have sworn to obey, and we cannot excuse ourselves for the failure to fulfill this obligation on the ground that we are unable to perform it in the precise mode pointed out. Whenever it shall be possible to execute our duty in all its parts, we must do so in exact compliance with the whole letter and spirit of the Constitution. Until that period shall arrive, we must execute so much of it as our condition renders practicable. Whenever the withdrawal of the enemy shall place it in our power to make a census and apportionment of direct taxes, any other mode of levying them will be contrary to the will of the law giver, and incompatible with our obligation to obey that will; until that period the alternative left is to obey the paramount precept, and to execute it according to the only other rule provided, which is to "make the tax uniform throughout the Confederate States."

The considerations just presented are greatly enforced by the reflection that any attempt to apportion taxes amongst States, some of which are wholly or partially in the occupation of hostile forces, would subvert the whole intention of the framers of the Constitution, and be productive of the most revolting injustice, instead of that just correlation between taxation and representation on which it was their purpose to secure. With large portions of some of the States occupied by the enemy, what justice would there be in imposing on the remainder the whole amount of the taxation of the entire State in proportion to its representation? What else would this be in effect than to increase the burthen of those who are the heaviest sufferers by the war, and to make our own inability to protect them from invasion, as we are required to do by the Constitution, the ground for adding to their losses by an attempted adherence to the letter in violation of the spirit of that instrument? No such purpose could have been entertained, and no such result contemplated by the framers of the Constitution. It may add weight to these considerations, if we reflect that, although the Constitution provided that it should go into operation with a representation temporarily distributed among the States, it expressly ordains, after providing for a census within three years, that this temporary distribution of representative power is to endure "until *such* enumeration shall be made." Would any one argue, that because the census cannot be made within the fixed period, the Government must, at the expiration of that period, perish for want of a Representative body? In any aspect in which the subject can be viewed, I am led to the conclusion already announced, and which is understood to be in accordance with a vote taken in one or both houses at your last session. I shall, therefore, until we are able to pursue the precise mode required by the Constitution, deem it my duty to approve any law levying the taxation, which you are bound to impose for the defence of the country, in any other practicable mode, which shall distribute the burthen uniformly and impartially on the whole property of the people.

In your former legislation you have sought to avoid the increase in the volume of notes in circulation, by offering inducements to voluntary funding. The measures adopted for that purpose have been but partially successful, and the evil has now reached such a magnitude as to permit no other remedy than a compulsory reduction of the currency to the amount required by the business of the country. This reduction should be accompanied by a pledge that under no

OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 1863.

LATEST WAR NEWS

Matters in East Tennessee.—BRISTOL, Dec. 9.—Gen. Giltner's brigade encountered the advance of Wilcox's corps, about 2,000 strong, near Maynardsville, Tenn., last Thursday, routing them completely and capturing a number of prisoners. The prisoners say that Wilcox's command is composed of raw troops.

RICHMOND, Dec. 10.—The news *from* Gen. Longstreet last night was that his command had reached Beane's Station, which is about 85 miles west of Bristol. His retrograde movement has been very successful, and the yankees have doubtless abandoned their "pursuit." Foster despatched that he "*might be able* to inflict some damage" on our rear, but gave little hope of a vigorous effort.

There are some indications of the renewal of active operations on the Rapidan. The impression prevails that Meade will advance again, but by another route. Our men are represented to be in splendid condition, and receiving large supplies of clothing.—*Whig.*

BRISTOL, Dec. 10.—Our last advices from the front are that Longstreet's forces were in line of battle at Rutlege, his rear guard skirmishing with the enemy, whose pursuit had not been vigorous since our forces left Morristown. Our cavalry was skirmishing all day Monday with the advance of Wilcox's force on Clinch River. Capt. Everett's raiding party returned to Abingdon yesterday. He attacked the enemy at Mt. Sterling, Ky., and routed them, after a stubborn resistance, during which the Court House and Jail were burned. He captured a large number of fine horses, and a hundred thousand greenbacks. The enemy being heavily reinforced, he retreated rapidly through Pound Gap, closely pursued by twelve hundred cavalry, who are reported at Gladeville, Va.

BRISTOL, Dec. 11.—Longstreet is slowly falling back from Morristown, presenting a bold front to the enemy, who, since a sharp skirmish at Morristown, have never pressed him. Our last advices represent him at Watauga River, near Kingsport. As Cumberland Gap is no longer in his rear, no apprehensions of danger are felt for him. All the hospitals along the Rail Road have been emptied to receive his wounded, about 600.

From Charleston.—CHARLESTON, Dec. 11.—Twelve shells were thrown into the city last night, at intervals of three hours,—damage trifling. Our batteries replied. No firing on Sumter.

CHARLESTON, Dec'r 11.—The enemy again shelled the city. Six buildings struck but no person injured. A fire occurred among the wood work at Fort Sumter this morning. Some ammunition was destroyed, and 10 killed and 30 wounded. Capt. Frost killed and, Lieut. Elliott wounded. Lieut. Col. Elliott slightly wounded. The enemy's batteries opened heavily upon Sumter during the fire.

Gen. Morgan.—The Richmond Enquirer says that Gen. Morgan crossed the Ohio river near Ashland, and is now safe in the Confederate lines. Captains Sheldon and Taylor, two of those who escaped with him, have been recaptured and are now in jail at Louisville, Ken.

Steamer Lost.—The Confederate Steamer Beauregard was chased ashore near Fort Fisher on Saturday. Extent of the loss unknown.

SCHEME OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR RELIEF OF THE FINANCES

The following is the scheme suggested by Mr. Memminger, in his report to Congress:

1. That Congress forthwith authorize a loan of $1,000,000,000 in six per cent. bonds, the principal payable in twenty years, the interest semi-annually; to be extended hereafter, from time to time, so as to consolidate the whole public debt.

2. That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to sell at par as many of the said bonds as will be sufficient to take up the outstanding currency and to pay the appropriations made by Congress.

3. That deposits of Treasury notes on account of the said loan may be received at the Treasury or any of its depositories, or by Commissioners to be appointed; said deposits to be in sums of $100, or in sums of which 100 is a perfect diviser.

4. Certificates shall be issued for such deposits which shall entitle the holder to bonds for the amount, with interest from the date of deposit. If the deposit be made in the month of January, the bonds issued for the same shall be exempt from the tax of 5 per cent. for the present year, hereinafter mentioned; if made in the month of February, they shall be exempt from one-half of the tax; and if made in the month of March, they shall be exempt from one-fourth of the said tax. Officers, soldiers, and seamen, in service, shall be entitled to exemption from the whole tax for sums paid at any time before April 1st, 1864.

5. A tax of 5 per cent. shall be imposed on all property and credits (other than the new issue of notes hereinafter mentioned) which may be held on the 1st of April next, to be paid on the 1st of July, one-half in Treasury notes and one-half in coin, or in the coupons of the bonds issued for the loan.

6. In case the coupons should advance in the market to a premium exceeding 25 per cent., any tax-payer shall be permitted to pay his tax in treasury notes of the new issue, with 25 per cent. added.

7. Within six months a new and improved issue shall be made of 200,000,000 of treasury notes, in substitution for that amount of old issues, and all the old issues shall be cancelled, and the faith of the Government is pledged not to increase said issues.

8. Notice shall be given to holders of treasury notes, (other than the said 200,000,000,) requiring them to present their notes at the Treasury, or at some of the depositories, on or before the 1st day of April next, and receive payment thereof in bonds of the said consolidated loan, or in default thereof the notes not so brought in shall cease to be current or receivable at the Treasury for dues, but shall remain evidences of debt payable by the Confederate States according to their tenor.

9. In the States beyond the Mississippi the time mentioned in the last clause shall be extended until the 1st day of July.

10. Six months more shall be allowed all holders of Treasury notes to come in and register and verify their notes as demands against the Treasury, and exchange the same for a certificate of debt; or if they prefer to keep the notes the name of the holder shall be endorsed thereon, after which the said notes shall be negotiable only by special assignment, and all notes not so registered within the same time shall be barred from any further claim on the Government.

11. Any holder of a bond of the Confederate States may convert the same into one of the bonds under this loan; the 8 per cent. bonds at par, and the others at a proportionate rate; and the loan shall be extended so as to absorb all bonds which may be offered in exchange.

12. The interest coupons of this loan shall be held equivalent to specie in all future dealings of the Government, and shall be accepted in payment of any tax hereafter made payable in coin.

13. The faith of the Government is pledged to make adequate provision for the payment of the principal and interest of the said loan by the continuance of the tax mentioned in Article 5, until a census shall be taken, after which like provision shall be made by direct taxes or by duties on imports and exports.

14. The notes of denominations under $5 shall not be affected by the provisions of this scheme.

From the North.—Northern papers to the 7th furnish that day's proceedings of the Northern Congress. Lincoln's Message had not been sent in. The Clerk of the House of Representatives did not call Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri and Kansas, on account of alleged informalities in their certificates of election. By vote of the House, the members from Maryland and West Virginia were called.

Gold in New York on Saturday 152¼. In Baltimore 152.

The yankees admit a loss of 1,000 in the fight with Johnson's division on Friday week, on the Rapidan.

A dispatch to the Herald, from Fort Smith, Arkansas, Dec. 2, says Gens. Price, Marmaduke and Cabell were preparing to attack Fort Smith or Little Rock.

Guerillas continue to be very troublesome on the Mississippi. They have erected a battery at Waterproof, below Vicksburg. A battery of seven 12 pounders and 1,300 guerillas are reported to be below the mouth of Red River.

Meade's retreat, it is said, necessitates a change in the command of the army, and produces general disappointment and depression. The correspondent of the World says:

"The military critics now essay to call the whole movement but an armed reconnoissance, but it is nevertheless known that Gen. Meade started out with well-conceived and matured plans for an advance on Richmond. *His failure to carry them out involved, without doubt, the loss of his position as commander of the army of the Potomac.*

There are 48,000 colored troops actually in the field, and 106,000 negroes in all employed in the army.

Banks telegraphed Lincoln that he was in possession of Brazos Island, Point Isabel and Brownsville, and that everything is as favorable as could be desired.

European news says the naval authorities in the Clyde have been instructed to detain war vessels suspected of being designed for the Confederates.

Mrs. Jane Pierce, wife of Ex-President Pierce, died at Andover, Massachusetts, Dec. 2.

A correspondent of the Tribune gives a long account of the operations of Burnside's and Longstreet's armies. On the 14th Nov. near Loudon, he says "Burnside attacked Longstreet and was defeated." He was then obliged to burn his wagon train and put the horses to the artillery to save that. At Campbell's Station, Longstreet attacked and Burnside lost 384 men, besides cavalry, not ascertained. On the night of the 17th Burnside reached Knoxville, and commenced fortifying. Longstreet arrived next morning. One of his Brigades drove the Federals from Tape Hill, with a loss of 200 yankees, including Gen. Sanders. On the 24th, the 20th Michigan Reg't was defeated in an attack upon the Confederate rifle pits, losing 100. On the 30th, Longstreet made his final assault and was repulsed. Led by the 16th and 17th Georgia and 13th Mississippi, they approached to within 100 yards of the fort unharmed. Then commenced a series of desperate and daring attacks, stubborn resistance, death, carnage, and horror scarcely equalled during the war. These men were the veterans of the Potomac—the flower of Longstreet's army—and, confident of promised victory, plunged into a boiling hell of lead. Wires had been stretched from stump to stump in front of the works. Over these the advancing enemy fell in confused heaps, with the killed and wounded around them. Our artillerymen hurled shell by hand; forward over the impediments came the doomed rebels. Hot and hotter became the battle, until the ground over which they passed was carpeted with the slain. The ditch was piled with dead, wounded, and dying. Not one on their side faltered—not a score of the gallant stormers escaped. The sun, rising, looked down through the cold mist and chill frost of that November morning upon the remains of an army. 1,000 killed, wounded, and prisoners, was the cost of the assault of Fort Sanders. Among the killed is Col. Girarde, of the 13th Massachusetts. Lieut. Col. O'Brien, the brother of Mrs. Brownlow, is a prisoner. Gen. Burnside offered them an armistice from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M., to remove their wounded and bury their dead. It was accepted. Our loss will not reach 80, all told. Besides 250 prisoners, we have three battle-flags. One of them was planted on our works at one time.

The Yankees claim that in the repulse near Ringgold, by Cleburne, they lost only 800; but give a list of seventy-four commissioned officers killed and wounded, one of the killed being Acting Brig. Gen. Creighton.

Three yankee officers have been arrested and sent to prison for committing frauds to the amount of a million of dollars in the Quartermaster's Department.

The Newburyport Herald has received information that there are at least 40,000 men in the British Provinces who have deserted from the U. S. army on leave of absence.

The New York Times has an editorial virtually declaring the capture of Charleston impossible.

Later.—Papers of the 8th have been received.

In the yankee Senate, Mr. Davis made an earnest opposition to the admission of Senators from West Virginia, contending that, constitutionally, there was no such State as West Virginia; therefore, there could be no Senators from such State. By a vote 36 to 5, the Senators were admitted to seats.

Schuyler Colfax of Indiana, radical Republican, was elected Speaker of the House, receiving 101 votes, Cox 42, Dawson 12, Mallory 10, scattering 17. On taking the chair, Colfax declared himself in favor of crushing out the rebellion by all the means within the power of the Government.

Still Later.—The Herald of the 9th says the distinguishing features of Lincoln's message will be his plan for the reclamation of the rebellious States.

From Europe.—Dates to the 24th Nov. are received.

The English Government had decided to stop the steamship Pampero in the Clyde, as intended for an American rebel vessel-of-war.

It is asserted by the London Post that the English Government was, "with regret," about to refuse to attend the Bonaparte Congress. Fifteen out of the twenty Powers invited had signified their intention of being present.

The London Post denies and the London Spectator reaffirms the rumor of the approach of Earl Russell's resignation.

NOTICE.

THE subscriber offers for sale his PLANTATION, containing 631 acres, with 225 or 250 acres of cleared Land, said in one and a half miles of Laurinburg Depot, W. C. & R. R. R. On the premises is a two story DWELLING and all necessary out houses, an Orchard of six hundred Apple Trees; and convenient to Churches and School.

J. R. McLAURIN.

Dec'r 7, 1863 88-9tpd

LAND FOR SALE.

I WILL sell at Clinton, on the 26th of December next, the LAND belonging to Henry Gregory, dec'd, containing 240 acres. The place is five miles Southeast of Clinton. There are good Dwelling Houses and all necessary out houses; one Mill Site. The water is very good. There is also 250 acres of the same tract of land belonging to Thomas J. Chestnut, which can be bought on reasonable terms, and will be sold on the same day. All in Sampson county.

WILLIAM GREGORY, Adm'r.

Nov'r 22, 1863 88-5tpd

Virginia and North Carolina—Reynolds' Brigade.—Reynolds' Brigade, composed of Virginians and North Carolinians, occupied a central position in our line around Chattanooga. They were first assailed about 11 o'clock on the morning of the 25th, and after a struggle of an hour or more drove back the yankees in great confusion. About 2½ o'clock Reynolds was ordered to the ridge to which the brigade retired as skirmishers. They took position on Missionary Ridge to the left of Gen. Patton Anderson's Division. The whole army at the same time fell back to the crest of the ridge.

The enemy immediately advanced to the assault in four lines of battle, four columns deep. The slaughter of the Federals was necessarily fearful when our artillery and musketry opened upon them. When the yankees came within 100 yards, Dees and Manigault's Brigade on Reynolds' right gave way. The right of Reynolds' brigade faltered for an instant, but the General passed to the front and exclaimed, "Virginia and North Carolina expect you to do your duty today." The men gave three cheers for "old Gauley," and again delivered a destructive fire.

Finding himself enfiladed, Reynolds changed his front with perfect order, as soon as the brigades on his right gave way. He held that position for an hour and a half, and was the last that retired from the field, and then in perfect order. We have heard many commendations of Cols. Wade and French, of the Virginia Regiments, and of Col. Hardy, of the North Carolinians. The loss of the Brigade, in killed and wounded, was about seventy.—*Atlanta Register, 8d inst.*

President's Message.—President Davis has already rendered himself famous by his messages. This is the best of them all. In point of matter and manner it is worthy to take place by the side of any State paper that has appeared during the last thirty years in any quarter of the globe. The style is smooth and polished, yet terse and vigorous; the tone calm and philosophical, yet firm and energetic; the English unexceptionable, and the temper excellent. The paper will tell in whatsoever country it may be read. The clear and distinct view which it presents of the whole field which it embraces, cannot fail to make an impression wherever it may be read.

Richmond Dispatch.

BY WILKES MORRIS, Auctioneer.

CARGO SALE AT AUCTION OF IMPORTED GOODS BY CATALOGUE EX STEAMSHIPS GEN'L BEAUREGARD AND ANTONICA.

ON THURSDAY, Dec. 17th, 1863, commencing at 9 o'clock, A. M., I will sell at my Sales Rooms, No. 2 Granite Row, Wilmington, N. C., the entire cargoes of the Steamships GENERAL BEAUREGARD and ANTONICA, consisting of

DRY GOODS.

5 bales Fancy Cloth
5 bales Fancy Tweeds
5 bales Woolen Cloths
67 bales and cases Dark and Fancy Prints
1 case Black Coburgs
3 cases cambrics
2 cases Linen Cambric Handkerchiefs
8 bales Welsh Flannel
4 bales Fancy Wove Flannels
2 cases black and white Alpaca Checks
1 case Fancy Woven Corsets
4 bales Fancy and Wool Shirts
2 bales Granite Mohair
1 case Black and Tanned Checks
10 cases Bleached Shirting
1 bale Fancy Winceys
1 case printed DeLaines
1 case Fancy Checks
2 cases Black Alpaca
8 cases Bunting, White, Scarlet and Blue
4 cases Ladies and Gents Hose
1 case Fronting Linens
2 cases Plain Mohair
1 do Spot and Check Mohair
1 do ¼ Trowsering
1 do Traveling Shawls
3 bales Printed Cotton Hdk'fs
2 cases Ladies Buckram Bonnet Frames
1 case Jackonets
1 case Tuck Combs
1 case Braids and Suspenders
3 cases Pins
1 case Needles and Pins

STATIONERY.

8 cases Envelopes
8 cases
Pens
Pen-Holders
Pencils
Ink Stands
Pocket Knives, &c
2 cases Playing Cards

GROCERIES.

106 boxes best English Sperm Candles
240 boxes White Soap
136 half boxes Castile Soap
70 boxes Brown Soap
75 bags prime Coffee
20 barrels prime Brown Sugar
6 casks refined Loaf Sugar
56 bags Black Pepper
5 cases Pickles
21 cases Sardines
10 cases Olive Oil
10 drums do do
10 kegs Coleman's Mustard
6 casks English do
150 boxes Codfish
19 bbls Mackerel
15 bbls Salmon

SUNDRIES.

36 cases Cotton Cards, 2 dozen each, No 10
117 boxes Window Glass, 8x10 and 16x20
11 cases Knives and Forks
1 case Tailors' Scissors
1 case Ladies' Thimbles
7 cases Per. Caps
200 coils Manilla Rope

SHOES, &c.

19 cases Ladies' and Gent's Shoes
4 do Russet Brogans
15 do extra heavy Brogans
3 do Russet, Wellington and Cavalry Boots
3 do Calf Skins
25 Kips, Chamois Skins
35 cases Shoe Thread

DRUGS.

20 casks Alcohol
34 drums Balsam Copaiba
4 cases do do
4 cans do do
20 cases Tannic Acid
2 cases Blue Mass
7 cases Refined Camphor
5 barrels do do
12 cases Calomel
10 cases Quinine
3 cases Morphine
8 cases Chloroform
3 cases Carb. Ammonia
25 barrels Epsom Salts
5 casks do do
25 kegs do do
6 bags Ultra Maril Blue
2 cases powdered Cantharides
18 cases Castor Oil
10 barrels Roll Sulphur
10 do Alum
20 do Green Copperas
2 kegs Salt Tartar
5 cases Cream Tartar
10 cases,
Calomel
Hydraig
Iodide Potass
2 cases powdered Ipecac
6 cases India Rhubarb
3 cases Bi Carb Potash
2 cases powdered Jalap
1 case Henry's Magnesia
1 case Iodine Resublimate
2 hhds Calcined Magnesia
10 kegs Prepared Chalk
7 cases Castile Soap
3 cases Brown Windsor and Fancy Soap
AND
7 cases Drugs, assorted

LIQUORS.

5 quarter casks pure Cognac Brandy
10 eighth casks do do do
10 pipes Old Holland Gin
48 cases Bourbon Whiskey
22 barrels Salt River Whiskey.

Dec'r 8, 1863. 88a

A FALSE REPORT.—A story has been started and has obtained considerable circulation, that Gov Vance had received a letter from Lincoln, offering terms of peace to North Carolina. We have applied for information on the subject, and have the best authority for saying that the story is *utterly without foundation.* Gov. Vance has received no letter of any kind from Lincoln. The story is supposed to have been started by some one who had heard that Lincoln had granted a pass to a young lady in North Carolina to go to her friends in Maryland, which pass necessarily came into Gov. Vance's hands. Yet "this world is so given to lying" that two gentlemen whom we have seen had the story from persons who said they *had seen the letter and stated the nature of its propositions!*

There is as little probability at present of Lincoln's offering any terms short of dishonor and ruin, as there is that North Carolina would accept any such terms, or any terms that would separate her from her sister States.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE is exceedingly long, but it is exceedingly able, interesting and important, and we feel compelled to publish it in full, even though obliged to divide it between two issues. We publish the larger part (nearly two-thirds) to-day, embracing all in regard to the year's operations of the army, the elaborate discussion of our foreign relations, and to the currency. On the two first named subjects, the Message is all that every friend of the country could wish, viz: a plain statement and admission of our military disasters, with as little attempt to gloss them over as thought of cowering under them. And the conduct of England and France, especially of England, is so thoroughly exposed as, though it may not affect their action, will go down in history as an exposure of a truckling to the demands of the United States totally unworthy of a great people and government like Great Britain.

On the currency and finances, as it is *the* great difficulty, so there will probably be more difference of opinion. To our view, the argument in favor of taxes, and of including lands and negroes among the subjects taxed, is very strong. We copy Mr. Memminger's scheme, which the President recommends so decidedly. It will be seen that it differs essentially and advantageously from the scheme of the Bank Convention. The specie tax, for instance, which was so objectionable, is so modified as that no one will have to give more than 25 per cent. for specie with which to pay it. But, then, there is danger that no one will pay the tax in specie, and how will gov't pay the interest in specie? We sincerely hope that Congress will adopt something that will not only be efficient but unobjectionable also, even to the croakers.

In the remainder of the Message, which we are obliged to defer till Thursday, the portions on the "exchange of prisoners" and on the "conduct of the enemy," are powerfully and clearly stated. We do not concur in the position that the substitute system was not a contract, but only a privilege; but if we remember aright, the Supreme Court of North Carolina, in 1856, in the case of the Bank of Fayetteville, decided that in conferring a privilege, a State did not divest itself of its rights of "eminent domain," to recall that privilege should the necessities of the State require it. We did not approve of that decision, but yet are in the habit of deferring to settled authority.

The whole Message is a model of dignity, ability and purity of style, standing by the side of that of 1862, two of the most remarkable state papers which any nation has originated.

The Report of the Secretary of War is a long document. It states that in consequence of desertions, straggling and absence, the effective force of the army is but little over half of the men on the rolls; recommends the repeal of the substitute and exemption provisions, and that all having substitutes be immediately required to go into the field; says no compact was entered into between the government and the person furnishing the substitute, as alleged, but only a privilege of the government accorded. Instead of complaining at the abrogation, he should be grateful for what has heretofore been allowed him. Recommends an abridgement of the exemption, conscribing all and making details for the wants of society at home. Says three years men, when their terms expire, cannot be finally discharged. They should be retained, allowing them to choose some existing company, under present organization, in some arm of the service. Recommends the consolidation of companies and regiments reduced below a certain complement. Pays a glowing tribute to the heroism, endurance and unfaltering devotion of the soldiers and the lamented dead who have yielded their lives a sacrifice on the altar of liberty. It closes by saying, "our very reverses show a united determination to endure everything for independence, which must convince the enemy of the futility of their efforts at our subjugation."

Gov. Letcher's Message to the Virginia Legislature maintains, on the contrary, that the substitution is a binding contract, and should be respected, for that no government which violates contracts between itself and individuals can maintain character or currency.

RIGHT.—The Legislature of South Carolina has passed resolutions assuring the President of "unabated confidence" in him, and of an "unalterable determination to sustain him in his efforts to conquer an honorable peace and maintain the liberties of the people."

THE NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS AT MISSIONARY RIDGE.—In addition to the satisfactory article of our correspondent in Thursday's Observer, putting in its true light the gallant conduct of the North Carolinians and Virginians in Reynolds' Brigade, we find several articles in the Southern papers, to the same effect. One signed by Col. W. M. Hardy, of the 60th N. C. Reg't, denies emphatically the statement of "P. W. A." that it was this Brigade which gave way and lost the battle. How it happens that P. W. A. has failed to retract his unjust statement, we cannot tell, but we have looked in vain through his subsequent letters for any correction. He must know, what all accounts agree in, that it was Manigault's and Deas' Brigades of South Carolinians, and not Reynolds', that fled. These South Carolinians had greatly distinguished themselves in the battles of Murfreesborough and Chickamauga, and their flight has astonished every one.

P. S. Gen. Manigault denies, in a letter to the Chattanooga Rebel, that his Brigade was the first to break. He does not say whose it was, but says the official reports will show.

RUMORS IN RICHMOND.—It was rumored in Richmond on Friday, (discredited by some,) that the President had received from Col. Ives, his aid, now with the army of Tennessee, a telegraph announcing the evacuation of Chattanooga by Gen. Grant, and his retreat upon Nashville, tearing up the railroad behind him. It was said that Gen. Hardee will pursue. What has caused this sudden and unexpected evacuation is not known. By many it is regarded as a stragetic move to commence a new campaign, perhaps to undertake the "On to Richmond," and be engulphed in that Serbonian bog, "where armies whole have sunk."

It was also rumored that Lee was to take command in Tennessee and Beauregard, or Bragg, in Northern Virginia.

It was rumored in Washington city that Meade was to be superseded by Pleasonton, after Sedgwick and Warren had been offered and declined the command.

Col. P. J. Sinclair proposes to recommence the publication of the Daily North Carolinian in this place. His advertisement came in too late for to-day.

PRESENT OF A HORSE.—Gen. Robert B. Vance acknowledges a present of a fine horse from W. R. Richardson, Esq. of Raleigh. The Progress says the horse cost Mr. R. $5,000.

Many communications necessarily deferred.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, Mr Wiggins, from the Finance Committee, reported a bill to amend the revenue law, taxing profits and blockade goods, which passed its several readings.

The bill in relation to the Militia and Home Guard was amended, 21 to 20, by striking out the entire section authorizing exemptions.

Many unimportant bills were passed or rejected.

Both Houses adjourned from Wednesday to Friday, Thursday being Fast Day.

In the Commons, on Wednesday, a bill to exempt from conscription certain State officers in addition to those heretofore exempted, passed 2d reading, 68 to 29. It exempts Justices of the Peace appointed prior to May 11th, 1863; County Trustees and Solicitors; Registers; Tax Collectors; one Deputy Sheriff in counties where there is no tax collector; Constables who gave bond prior to May 11th, 1863, and their successors in office; one Deputy Clerk for each court when necessary; one county Commissioner, distributing funds and provisions for the relief of soldiers' families; agents appointed by the Legislature for any purpose; Commissioned Officers of the Militia and the Home Guard; Mayors and Police of Raleigh, Wilmington, Salisbury, Charlotte, Fayetteville and Goldsboro'; Counsellors of State; Board of Internal Improvements; Literary Board and employees of the State Government.

The House refused, 52 to 44, to concur in the Senate's amendment reducing the appropriation for the relief of soldiers' families from two millions to one million. The Senate insisted, and the House asked a committee of Conference on it.

The House also refused, by the Speaker's casting vote, to reconsider the resolution to adjourn *sine die* on Monday the 14th.

On Friday, a great many bills, of no special importance, were disposed of. We have not room for the details. Motions to extend the session till Wednesday were rejected. It was resolved to adjourn to-day, to meet again on the 3d Tuesday of May.

On Saturday, we learn that the Home Guard bill, and the bill to restore the Spring Terms of the Superior Courts, were passed.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate, on Tuesday, after the reading and reference of the President's Message, Mr. Wigfall offered a resolution to furnish rations to officers of the army as well as to the soldiers.

On Wednesday, Mr. Orr introduced a bill to pay claims against the Government in sight per cent. bonds when demanded. Also directing inquiry if any legislation is necessary to prevent the "arbitrary, unjust and needless impressment of provisions, under orders from the Commissary General."

Mr. Johnson of Arkansas introduced bills and resolutions proposing the return to States west of the Mississippi of skeleton regiments from those States to be recruited; in relation to exchange or parole of prisoners captured west of the Mississippi; and for the appointment of Assistant Secretaries of War and the Treasury for the trans-Mississippi department.

On Thursday, Congress had a perfect shower of projects of bills and resolutions of all kinds and subjects. The Senate passed the bill to repeal the substitute law. Mr Johnson, of Arkansas, introduced a bill to limit the term of office of members of the Cabinet to two years, when they might be re-eligible, but should be re-appointed and confirmed by the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, on Tuesday and Wednesday, most of the sittings were taken up by Mr. Foote of Tennessee, in long tirades of abuse of the President as solely responsible for the disaster at Chattanooga, and of the Commissary General. The latter, he read a letter to show, had not provided food for the yankee prisoners, so that for eight days of the last month they had no meat. [Mr. Foote's speeches are of such a character as to defeat his object; and so his resolutions were rejected. But doubtless Congress will make inquiry into this matter. It should be done at once, and the offender, if the fact be as stated, ignominiously dismissed.]

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury was referred to a committee of one from each State, with instructions, adopted by a vote of 42 to 14, "to report a bill levying a tax upon real and personal property according to the value of such property." This indicates a preference for a tax instead of the Secretary's scheme.

On Thursday bills and resolutions upon substitutes, currency, taxes, impressments, arbitrary seizures, and impressments by military authorities, frauds by Quartermasters and Commissaries, and to prohibit the issue of Treasury Notes after the first January; were referred without discussion.

CASUALTIES.—We learn from a letter from Lt. Chas P. Mallett, Co. C, 3d Reg't, that the following were the casualties in that Company in the fight at Bartlett's Mills on Friday the 27th ult., viz: J B Arnett, mortally, since died; John Baily, D L Grimes, W Johnson, A L Ledbetter, W S Fisher, S R Tolar, slight; Jas H Pridgen, missing, supposed to have been captured.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

The meeting of the members of the Cumberland Hospital Association will be held on Tuesday afternoon next at the residence of Mrs Henry Pemberton.

DIED,

In Washington City, D. C., Nov'r 23d, Gen. WM. J. COWAN, a native of Bladen county, N. C.

On the 8th inst., at Magnolia, Mrs. MARY LANGDON, widow of Richard Langdon, and daughter of the late Dr. Reuben Everitt, all of Smithville. Closing in perfect peace a life of purity and piety worthy of imitation.

FAYETTEVILLE MARKET.—December 14.

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

Bacon 2 25. Lard 2 25.
Beef 60 cts. by side, 60 at retail.
Beeswax 3 00. Butter 3 00 to 3 50.
Cotton 1 00 to 1 25. Coffee, $10 to 12 50.
Cotton Yarn—$10 to $25 per bunch.
Dried Fruit—Apples 60, Peaches 75.
Eggs 1 50 per dozen.
Extract Logwood $4 to $5 per lb.
Flour 75 00 to 85 00.
Flaxseed $5 per bu.
Fodder 6 00 to 7 00. Hay 4 50. Shucks 4 50.
Grain—Corn very scarce, 9 00 to 10 00. Wheat 12 50 to 15 00. Rye $8 to $10. Oats 6 00 to 7 50. Peas $8 to $10.
Hides—Green 2 00 to 2 50, dry 3 50 to 4 00.
Iron—Swedes $2 50 to $3 00.
Leather—Upper 10 00 per lb. Sole $10.
Liquors—Corn Whiskey 85 00. Apple and Peach Brandy 35 00.
Molasses—Country made $9 to $10; N. O. $10 to $12.
Nails—$2 00 to $2 50 per lb.
Onions $7 50 to 10 00 per bushel.
Potatoes—Irish $5 per bushel; sweet 4 00 to 4 50.
Rice 35 to 40 cts.
Soap—Family Bar $1 per lb.; Toilet 2 00.
Sugar 3 50.
Spirits Turpentine 1 50 to $2 per gallon.
Fayetteville 4-4 Sheetings 90 to 3 00.
Salt $17 to $17 50 per bushel.
Tallow 2 50. Wool $4 to $6.

Corrected by E. L. PEMBERTON

STATE SALT.

THE CITIZENS of ROCKFISH DISTRICT will be furnished with State Salt at the usual place from Monday 21st to Thursday 24th inst. Should any remain over it will be distributed to soldiers' families immediately.

D. McDOUGALD, Com.

Dec. 14, 1863. 89-2t

HEADQUARTERS 3d Reg't Home Guard,
FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., Dec. 10, 1863.

COMMANDANTS of Companies of the 15th Battalion will resume weekly drill after this date.

W. DRAUGHON, Colonel.

C. E. LEETE, Adj't. 1tpd

FOR SALE.

1200 ACRES of PINE LAND in Harnett county, situate about equi distant between Upper and Lower Little Rivers, being about 3 miles from each, on the West side of the Atkins Road. Apply to

HUGH McLEAN,

Buie's Creek P. O., Harnett Co., N. C.

Dec'r 12, 1863 89-3w

One Hundred Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY on the 18th September, my negro woman JENNY, aged about 28 years, about 5 feet high, dark complexion, looks surly unless spoken to, at which time she is very pleasant. She ranaway sometime previous and was taken up in Robeson county, N. Carolina, in the neighborhood of Shoe Heel Depot, working about under the pretence of being free. She was carried off by one Lewis Oxendine, a mulatto who was hauling corn at that time, from my plantation. I will give the above reward for her delivery to me or in any Jail so that I get her. I will give one hundred dollars more for proof sufficient to convict any person of harboring her.

My address is Brownsville, Post Office, Marlborough District, South Carolina. JOHN A. HODGES.

Dec. 6, 1863. 89-3tpd

Houses to Rent or Sell.

SEVERAL HOUSES situated on Moore street and adjacent thereto, will be sold or rented and possession given on first of January next. For particulars apply to

JOHN H. COOK.

Dec'r 12, 1863 89-3t

Horse, Rockaway and Harness,
AT AUCTION.

ON Tuesday next one HORSE, ROCKAWAY and HARNESS, will be sold at Auction; 4 office Chairs and lot of other articles.

JOHN H. COOK, Auc't'r.

Dec'r 12, 1863 1t

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

THE Subscriber having qualified as Executor of the last Will and Testament of Isham Carver, sen'r, dec'd, hereby gives notice to all persons having claims against the Estate of his Testator, to present them within the time prescribed by law, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

ARCH'D McLEAN, Ex'r.

Further Notice.

THE NEGROES belonging to the Estate of the late Isham Carver, dec'd, will be hired out on Tuesday the 5th Jan'y next, at the residence of Mrs. L. A. W. Carver. Terms made known at hiring.

A McLEAN, Ex'r.

Dec'r 9, 1863 89tt

FOR RENT.

ON the 1st Jan'y will be rented publicly at the market house a good dwelling house and lot on the north west corner of the Court House square—on Rowan street. A house containing two rooms on Gillespie street. Also the office at the bridge known as Eccles's office, and a lot on the creek.

D. McLAURIN.

Dec. 14 89-tlJ

WANTED, Horse Shoe Iron.

ANY person having it for sale, please apply to Maj. M. P. TAYLOR, at the Arsenal.

Dec'r 14. 1t

WANTED,

A MAN to take charge of a Carding Room in a Cotton Factory. Apply at this Office, by note addressed to McD. & Son.

Dec'r 9, 1863 88 19tpd

Confederate Tax Notice.

I WILL attend with the Assessors at the office of A. M Campbell in Fayetteville daily from Wednesday the 5th day of January until the 21st to receive the Income Tax due Jan'y 1st, 1864, and the Tax due from Dealers. Dealers will take notice that their Licences expire on the 31st Dec 1863, and they will be required to renew them, and to return the amount of sales for the quarter ending Dec 31st, 1863.

The Income Tax is payable by each person, joint stock company and corporation, from every occupation, employment or business, whether registered or not, in which they may have been engaged, and from every investment of labor, skill, property or money, and the incomes and profits derived from any source whatever from Jan'y 1st, 1863, to Jan'y 1864.

The following exemptions from the tax are allowed:

1st. Incomes of and under $500.

2d. Profits or income derived from such products of land as are taxed in kind.

B. W. HARDIE,
Dist. Col. for Cumberland county.

Dec'r 12, 1863 89-3t21J

NOTICE.

THE subscriber having, at December Term 1863 of Cumberland County Court, qualified as administrator on the Estate of John Ray, dec'd, hereby gives notice to all persons indebted to said Estate to make payment, and those having claims against the estate to present them within the time limited by law, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of a recovery.

DUNCAN SHAW, Adm'r.

Dec'r 8, 1863

Further Notice.

ON Wednesday the 30th inst., at the late residence of said John Ray, I will sell the Personal Property belonging to said Estate, consisting of CATTLE, HORSES, Sheep, Hogs, Farming Utensils, Household and Kitchen Furniture, &c. Terms at sale.

DUNCAN SHAW, Adm'r.

Dec'r 8, 1863 89-3tpd

Valuable Land and Negroes in Harnett County, for sale.

THE subscriber, as Executor of the last Will and Testament of William Cutts, dec'd, will sell to the highest bidder, at the late residence of the said Wm. Cutts, dec'd, on Thursday the 31st day of Dec'r 1863, THREE TRACTS OF LAND,—one tract containing 216 acres, another tract containing 249 acres, another tract containing 307 acres, on the waters of Black River and Buie's Creek. Also, at the same time and place, FIVE LIKELY YOUNG NEGROES. Terms made known on the day of sale.

JOHN R. RAMBEAUT,
Ex'r of Wm. Cutts, dec'd.

Dec'r 4, 1863. 89-2t

ADMINISTRATION NOTICE.

THE subscriber having been appointed Administratrix with the Will annexed, of the late Mrs. Sarah Ann Butler, dec'd, hereby gives notice to all persons having claims against the Estate to present them within the time prescribed by law, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

L. A. W. CARVER, Adm'x.

FURTHER NOTICE.

THE Negro Slaves belonging to the Estate of the late Mrs. Sarah Ann Butler, dec'd, will be hired out at the residence of the subscriber on TUESDAY the 5th day of Jan'y next. Terms made known at hiring.

L. A. W. CARVER,
Adm'x of Sarah Ann Butler, dec'd.

Dec'r 14. 89ts

NEGROES FOR SALE.

BY virtue of a Decree of the County Court of Cumberland county, the subscriber as Commissioner appointed for said purpose, will expose to public sale, at the late residence of Robert McPhail, dec'd, known as the old "Flea Hill" master ground, on the Raleigh road, on the 5th day Jan'y next, SEVEN NEGROES, 1 man aged 19, 1 boy aged 11, 1 boy aged 6, 1 woman aged 40, 1 girl 16, 1 girl 14, 1 girl 2. Terms at sale

WM. J. McPHAIL, Com'r.

Dec'r 14, 1863 89-tspd

POTASH.

25 CASKS extra quality Home-made POTASH on hand, put up in excellent packages of 3 to 350 lbs each, made in Richmond county by a party who understands the business. Orders are solicited.

WORTH & CO., Agents.

Wilmington, N. C., Dec'r 8, 1863. 89-10tpd

State of North Carolina,
ROBESON COUNTY.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Nov. Term, 1863.

ON motion, Reuben King, Sheriff of Robeson county, read aloud in open Court the following lands which he proposes to sell for the Taxes due thereon for the year 1862:

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STATE TREASURER'S REPORT.

We have received a pamphlet copy of the Report of the Public Treasurer, Jonathan Worth, Esq., a document of unusual importance. Much of its information as to the receipts and disbursements we have already compiled from the portion of the Comptroller's Report so far published. But the Treasurer adds to all this numerous Tables, and his own views and observations. The latter we annex, and condense the former:

THE STATE'S INDEBTEDNESS.

Exhibit A, shows the bonds outstanding against the State, for what purpose, by what authority, and at what date issued, when due, and amount. The amount of these bonds is $21,132,000, but in this sum is embraced $1,500,000, deposited in England as collateral security for the delivery of cotton, which the State has contracted to deliver there. The State has purchased and has on hand cotton probably worth as much, at the price agreed on, as the debt we owe in England. The first class of bonds mentioned in this Exhibit, amounting to $53,000, I do not find mentioned in the reports of my predecessor. They are over due, and I was not aware that they were in existence until a number of the class were presented for payment. At what time they fell due I am unable to state, not having been able to find any entry in the office showing the date of their issue, or the number and amount issued. They are registered bonds; and I find in the office a book in which the holders of these bonds gave receipts for the semi-annual interest, from which it appears that the total amount of them was $370,000. The books show the payment of $317,000, leaving unpaid $53,000.

Since the 1st of January last, I have sold to the banks, *six per cent.* bonds falling due January 1st, 1893, at par, to the amount of $2,665,500 in payment of this amount due to them for temporary loans; and as a means of supplying the Treasury in January and February last, I sold to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, at par, out of the same class of bonds, to the amount of $978,500; and to others at an average premium of 3½ *per cent.*, to the amount of $126,000.

The income of the Sinking Fund will probably be much more than sufficient to pay the bonds falling due in 1864 and 1865.

[Statement A shows that the $21,182,000 of State Bonds have been issued from 1849 to 1863—all except $178,000 since July, 1858—and $12,782,500 since the war commenced. The principal items are $3,000,000 for the [illegible] railroad; $1,486,500 for the Atlantic and N[illegible] Railroad; $1,458,000 for the Western N C railroad; $1,864,000 for the W. C. & R. railroad; $1,864,000 [illegible] Treasury [illegible] $9,795,000 [illegible] (Ed Obs.)]

Exhibit B, shows the amount of Treasury notes issued, the amount withdrawn, and the amount in circulation.

[Total amount issued $5 285 075 05; withdrawn $1,905 246 15; leaving in circulation 3,379,828 90]

Exhibit C, shows the amount of coupons due, and not presented for payment, to wit, $1,156,183.

[This is a remarkable fact, that so large a sum of coupons is withheld from presentation for payment. The probability is that much the larger portion of them is held at the North; but doubtless many at home retain them for want of opportunity for a better investment. Better help the cause by investing them in Confederate Bonds]

Exhibit D, shows the amount due to the banks and to individuals, for temporary loans, on the 1st October, 1863.

The Farmer's Bank and the Bank of Washington say they have invested as much of their means in stocks as their charters authorize them so to invest. The latter bank, through its President, assures me of the willingness of the bank to receive the bonds of the State if its charter were so amended as to authorize it. The latter expresses a preference that the debt remain as it is, but says if compelled to take payment in Confederate currency or the bonds of the State, that the latter will be preferred.

I made known to the Banks of Wadesboro', the Miner's and Planter's Bank and the Branches of the Bank of Cape Fear at Salem and Washington, in the early part of the year, my readiness to pay them in Confederate currency or the 6 per cent. bonds of the State, at par, at their option, and recently repeated the notice. The Bank of Wadesboro' postponed, in the first instance, to make any decision, and does not respond to the second notice. One of the directors of the Miner's and Planter's Bank has lately assured me that they would shortly present the note held by that Bank, and take State Bonds, and the two Branches of the Bank of Cape Fear, upon a second notice to them some weeks ago, reply that the subject has been referred to the principal Bank, from which I have received no answer. All the other Banks have accepted the State bonds in satisfaction of the debts due them for temporary loans, amounting to $2,665,500; the Branch of the Bank of Cape Fear, in this city, filed a protest, which was communicated to you at the Extra Session in July last.

[To six banks is due 671,388, and to four individuals 87,055 Total 608,4 3]

Exhibit E, shows the amount of Fundable Treasury notes issued in pursuance of Ordinances of the Convention; the amount withdrawn from circulation, and the amount which may still be issued.

[Issued 2 878,640; withdrawn 1 855 025; in circulation 1,023 615 May be issued 363,385]

Exhibit F, shows the amount of Treasury notes fundable 1st January, 1866, or not fundable at all, which this Department has been authorized to issue; the authority under which they have been or may be issued; their class; when redeemable; the amount of each denomination authorized to be issued; the amount which has been issued, and the amount which may still be issued. The notes, which the Treasurer is still authorized to issue are as follows:

Notes fundable at pleasure of holder,	$863 385
Notes fundable 1st January, 1866,	2 795 280
Notes of $1, $2 and $3, not fundable,	1 050,800
Notes of less denomination than 1 dollar,	819,064 95
	$4 528 649 95

Since the 15th February last, the Treasury being amply supplied with Confederate money collected from the Confederate government and other sources, I have deemed it inexpedient to increase the indebtedness of the State by the issue of these notes, excepting where required to do so, to certain counties in possession of the enemy, under the act providing for the wives and families of soldiers in the army; and the denominations less than one dollar, which the necessities of business required for change. As they all command a considerable premium over Confederate notes, if I were to pay them to such claimants as might prefer them, the whole of them would be exhausted before I could use the Confederate notes, and the debt of the State unnecessarily increased. This policy will be continued in future unless your honorable body shall otherwise direct.

Exhibit G, is a condensed statement of the to[illegible] indebtedness of the State on the 30th Septem[illegible]r, 63.

[illegible] people [illegible]ended debt $21,182 000; Treasury Notes in [illegible] them." [illegible] 9,8:8 90; Coupons unpaid 1,156,183; in 1861 [illegible] 1,423 Total 26,226,434 90]

From the [illegible]

"The Old U[illegible]to the indebtedness, the State [illegible]tern Sentinel, the minister having Corporations, [illegible]have loved the old [illegible]more." [illegible]ver bonds:

[illegible] United State[illegible]d on the 19th [illegible] $600,000

[illegible]ing to the Con[illegible] 1,500,000

City of Raleigh,	48,000
Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company,	100,000
Debt of Atlantic and N C R R. Company, for loan under act of 1856,	400 000
	$2,648 000

Also, an unliquidated claim against the Confederate government, supposed to amount to about $4,000,000. The $1,500,000 sent to Europe, as collateral security of cotton debt, in arriving at the real indebtedness of the State, should not be considered as a debt, because the State owns cotton, supposed to be sufficient to pay the debt.

In this connection it should also be borne in mind that the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund hold State stocks to the amount of $1,519,000, and Confederate 7 *per cent.* bonds to the amount of $800,000, and, besides the interest accruing on this Fund, it is being rapidly increased by dividends from Railroads.

I have endeavored to co-operate in every legitimate way with the Commissioners of the Fund in investing its income. The judicious manner in which it has been managed, and its rapid increase, derived from our large investments in works of internal improvement, give the best assurance to the holders of our bonds that they will be punctually paid at maturity, and constitute one of the chief elements of the high premium which our bonds command in the market. The Commissioners of this Fund will probably report to you more fully during your session.

Lunatic Asylum.—By the act of the first session of your honorable body, the sum of $125,000 was appropriated to the support of the Lunatic Asylum for the years 1863 and 1864, "provided the aggregate amount for each year shall not exceed the sum of $62,500. Owing to the depreciation of the currency, this sum proved to be insufficient for the support of the Institution. The drafts of the Executive Committee for the fiscal year ending Sept 30th, 1863, which have been paid, amount to $70,000; and since the 30th September 1863, their drafts have been paid to the amount of $45,000. It has happened before that the Treasurer has had to take the responsibility of over-paying the appropriation for the support of this Institution, and subsequent sessions of the General Assembly have ratified such payments.

At a period when currency and prices are so deranged, it is impossible to make estimates with reasonable approximation to accuracy, and it is a bad practice for the Treasurer to pay money not authorized by law. I hope the General Assembly will either authorize the Executive Committee to draw for such sums as they deem necessary, or make such other provision as they may deem best to avoid the evil.

Appropriation for the Support of Soldiers' Families.—This appropriation of $1,000,000 contemplated the payment of the whole sum at once. In January and Feb'y last there was not enough money in the Treasury to meet other drafts on it, and the only means of raising this amount would have been the sale of State bonds to an amount so large as would have been likely to depreciate their value in market. Believing that the object of the appropriation would be as well accomplished by paying this appropriation in four equal instalments, and that in this way it could be met without recourse to the sale of State bonds, I have adopted this course; and to save expense and inconvenience to the County Courts, I sent them drafts quarterly and notified them that if they would inform me in what bank it would be most convenient to them to receive the money, I would place funds in such bank to meet the drafts. The banks have obligingly co-operated with me in carrying out this plan.

These drafts have all been issued, but many of them have not been presented for payment. The same is the case as to the warrants of the Comptroller in favor of the Chairmen of the Board of Superintendents of Common Schools.

It is believed that they are withheld in the hope that, at some future period payment may be had in better currency.

Settlement of the State's claim against the Southern Confederacy.—Under the authority of the 5th Section of the Act providing ways and means for supplying the Treasury, ratified 20th December, 1862, I appointed P. H. Winston, Esq., of Bertie, to collect the debt due to this State from the Confederate government. As soon as the vouchers could be put in order by the State Auditor, he went with them to Richmond and entered upon the duty, and has since diligently prosecuted it. Much of it has been passed upon by the Confederate Auditor, and the work is now progressing, and it is expected that at an early day a considerable part of the amount advanced by the State in payment of her troops will be paid, and that the whole claim will be passed upon by the auditing officers at an early day. It consists of a vast number of items, sustained by a great many vouchers, not always in the best shape, and necessarily requires much labor and research.

The payment of our eight per cent. Bonds.—Not having succeeded in collecting any of the foregoing claim from the Confederate government I have not felt authorized to notify the holders of our 8 *per cent.* bonds, of my readiness to pay them or to give them 6 *per cent.* bonds, if they should prefer them, in exchange for the 8 per cent bonds.

The salaries of the two clerks in this department are less than they should be if they were paid in specie. They are the cashiers of the department, and upon their fidelity and skill depends the accuracy of the accounts to be kept in it. True economy requires that they should at all times be paid a liberal salary. Their present compensation is totally inadequate to their support.

The Currency.—It is manifest that if something efficient be not speedily done vastly to diminish the volume of Confederate currency, that it will soon cease to answer the purpose of money. The Confederate Congress alone can furnish the remedy, if the disease be capable of cure. It seems to me to be certain that it will not be found in any plan which savors of repudiation, nor in voluntary funding. If it be possible to reduce the circulation to a tolerably healthy state, it must be done by taxation; and if funding constitute a part of the plan, it should be done at a very low rate of interest. I recommend taxation to raise the means to meet any considerable appropriation you may deem it expedient to make. I deem the ways and means now provided sufficient to meet present appropriations, if the currency shall not grow worse, and if the demands of the military departments of the State shall not be greater in the future than they have been the past year.

Every sheriff promptly paid the public taxes due on or before October 1st, 1863, amounting to $1,808,399 93, excepting the sheriffs of the following counties, which are believed to be in possession of the enemy, to-wit: Beaufort, Hyde, Chowan, Perquimons, Washington, Gates, Carteret, Pasquotank, Currituck, Camden, Jones, Craven, Tyrrell.

The sheriffs and tax collectors throughout the State acted with commendable promptitude under your act of the Extra Session in July last; and $1,564,100 was received in time, and funded in the 7 per cent. bonds of the Confederate States.

The tax due from the counties on account of patients in the Lunatic Asylum, up to January 1st 1863, as per certificate of Dr. Fisher, Superintendent, has been paid, with the following exceptions: Alamance, $82 60; Alexander, 236 00; Anson, 2,650 40; Ashe, 21 60; Beaufort, 432 00; Bertie, 648 00; Burke, 1,021 00; Carteret, 438 00; Chowan, 444 00; Columbus, 886 00; Craven, 1,436 00; Franklin, 2,480 18; Greene, 28 00; Hyde, 92 58; Iredell, 1,112 80; Johnston, 1,061 20; Lenoir, 260 00; Martin, 539 60; Montgomery, 311 00; Northampton, 7 20; Orange, 384 00; Pasquotank, 1,382 66; Perquimons, 896 00; Polk, 271 00; Richmond, 217 42; Rockingham, 414 20; Tyrrell, 690 00; Wake, 1,563 94; Washington, 798 40; Warren, 1,052 72; Wilkes, 879 00; Wilson, 490 00; Yancey, 636 66 Total $23,424 16

Notices will be issued to the Solicitors of the several circuits in which these counties are situate, as required by Act of 1858, Chap. 2, Sec. 6.

In enrolling the Revenue act, ratified the 11th February last, the clerk wrote the word "two," in the 3d line of the 108th section, in a manner so equivocal, that the Secretary of State, in copying the act for the Public Printer, mistook the word "two" for "ten;" whereby, in the *printed* act, the Sheriffs are allowed *ten* dollars for every thirty miles of twice the estimated distance from their home to the seat of government, instead of *two* dollars. The Sheriffs of the following counties were paid the sums annexed, in conformity with the printed act, before the error was discovered, being five times the amount due them under the law as it passed the General Assembly. I recommend the passage of a resolution declaratory of the error in the printed act—and authorizing the Treasurer to collect from the Sheriffs overpaid the excess they have received above the amount due them:

Watson Curtis,	Sheriff	Clay	County,	$273 30
S M Warren,	Tax Col	Wilson	"	48 60
M Masten,	Sheriff	Forsyth	"	79 66
Jonas Cline,	"	Catawba	"	119 66
J W Gore,	"	Columbus	"	93 00
A J McBride,	"	Watauga	"	173 33
H B Guthrie,	"	Orange	"	29 66
L H Lawrence,	"	Iredell	"	146 33
F A Campbell,	"	Alexander	"	123 00
P T Massey,	Tax Col	Johnston	"	23 00
J A Long,	Sheriff	Richmond	"	164 67
J W Dixon	"	Greene	"	52 00
J W Huisen,	"	Dup lin	"	63 00

All which is respectfully submitted.

JONA. WORTH, Public Treas'r.

Salt Supply.—In Alabama, Mr. McGehee, the State Salt Commissioner, informs us that he has finished the State Works, and is making salt with 7 large furnaces and 5 small ones, over 300 bushels daily. He has drawn from the State $140,000 and has turned over salt enough to the Quartermaster, Gen. Duff C. Green, of Mobile, when sold at 38 per bushel, to amount to $80,000, leaving $60,000 yet to pay up the whole amount, and that he has stock on hand to pay that amount and a great deal over. Mr. McGehee says the salt famine is over for the present season and salt has fallen ten dollars a bushel in the last few weeks. It is now offering in this city at $22,50, which is a most favorable indication, as the pork season is just commencing. He says that there is now being made on the Bigby daily over 2,000 bushels, and on the coast 600 bushels, and that the amount of salt made this year in the State is more than will be needed by our own citizens; a large amount being shipped to Mississippi and Georgia. Mr. McGehee thinks if a supply of pans could be obtained, something over one million of bushels will be turned out in this State next year.

Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser.

The Right Spirit.—The Richmond Whig says:

That, in any event, we can wear the enemy out by endurance, and conquer freedom and peace by simply never yielding, is as certain as the course of the seasons. The confidence that, while it "hopeth all things," also "endureth all things," will infallibly bring us out victorious in the end. Our people have only to resolve, with the inflexible firmness of martyrs, that, come what may, they will never be slaves to yankee masters, and time will fight for them with the irresistable power of Fate. We have that faith in the haughty, free-born Southern race which assures us that they will not belie the pledges they have made to each other and to the world to invoke extermination sooner than submit. We are sure we can speak for the renowned old Commonwealth of Virginia—which, as she took up the sword only when compelled to do so by the proclamation that made her a party to the war, and summoned her sons only when actual invasion was at hand—will never lay down the one nor disband the other while force is employed against her and the intruder's foot is on her soil. She counted the cost from the beginning—she expected to be swept over by the tide of war, and she looked from the first through the storm and beyond the flood, to the rainbow and dry land in the distance. She does not think of faltering. Unterrified and never to be subdued, she still looks, and will always look, with unfailing faith, to a day of deliverance and triumph. Till that day shall come, all the strength she has will be used in resistance, and all the fortitude she needs will show itself in endurance.

Prisoners.—RICHMOND, Dec. 7.—Nearly two hundred prisoners were received from the Rappahannock on Saturday night. Another of about an equal number came in from the same direction yesterday morning. The recent movement of General Lee's army has exerted about one thousand prisoners, nearly all of which have reached Richmond.—*Dispatch.*

Rolling Mills, iron foundries, earthern ware factories, cotton and woolen mills, bucket factories, salt boilers, and all other manufactures of necessaries, which habit has heretofore caused us to bring from abroad, have multiplied enormously within our borders since the war began.

Land and Negro for sale.

On the 31st day of December next will be sold on a credit of six months, at the late residence of Ann McNatt, dec'd (in the county of Robeson,) three hundred and eighty eight acres of LAND on which there is a comfortable dwelling, containing five rooms, and all necessary out houses, a good orchard and fine grape arbor. Also a NEGRO GIRL, between 12 and 14 years old. Purchasers will be required to enter into bond with approved security before title is made.

DANIEL McMILLAN, Jr.,
Administrator with the Will annexed
Nov. 10, 1863 80 1t*5pd

Caution to Bankers, Brokers and Others.

THE public are hereby cautioned against receiving any of the OLD ISSUE of the Farmers' Bank of North Carolina, especially any notes that are at all *mutilated* or THAT HAVE BEEN PASTED.

HOW TO KNOW THE OLD ISSUE.

All the new issue of this Bank have "GREENSBORO," printed in large letters on the face and are signed "Cyrus P. Mendenhall, President" and "W. A. Caldwell, Cashier," and all other notes of the Farmers' Bank of N. C NOT SO SIGNED and *printed are* OLD ISSUE and should be received with caution, as most of the genuine notes of the old issue have been *redeemed and cancelled.*

On the 24th of August, 1863, we learn, a Regiment from Pennsylvania took forcibly from the vault in Elizabeth City, a large amount of the OLD ISSUE of said Bank which had been cancelled and which doubtless they will attempt to pass.

The notes were cancelled with a punch by perforating each note with a number of holes one fourth of an inch in diameter which is obvious to the most casual observer, where the notes have not been further *mutilated* or *pasted.*

All $1 and $2 certificates of this Bank should be rejected, the genuine having been redeemed and cancelled, and some of the genuine impressions having been stolen with the cancelled notes, spurious signatures no doubt will be attached to them.

Persons having of the old issue not cancelled will please present it and receive new issue for it or the notes of other Banks as they may prefer.

By order of the Board of Directors at Greensboro' N. C., 22d Sept. 1863

CYRUS P. MENDENHALL, President.
W. A. CALDWELL, Secretary. 67*3m

THE BATTLE OF MISSIONARY RIDGE

FOR THE OBSERVER.

CAMP 58TH AND 60TH N. C. REGT'S, (CONSOLIDATED,)
Reynolds' Brigade, Dalton, Ga., Dec. 3, 1863.

Messrs. Editors: I have looked with much interest in the newspapers for some account of the part taken in the late battle by the 58th and 60th N. C Reg'ts (the only infantry regiments from the "Old North State," in this army,) but beyond the simple announcement in the telegraphic column that "Reynolds' Brigade of North Carolinians and Virginians greatly distinguished themselves on the 25th," I have seen nothing in the papers concerning our Brigade. As no one else has seen fit to do so, I propose to give you a hasty sketch of the part taken by Reynolds' Brigade in the late battle.

On Sunday the 22d our Division, Buckner's, now commanded by Brig. Gen. Bushrod Johnson, was marched to Chickamauga Depot, four miles from Missionary Ridge, en route to East Tennessee by Railroad via Dalton. While waiting for the cars on Monday the thunder of artillery in the direction of Missionary Ridge told us that warm work might soon be expected in that quarter, and late in the evening Reynolds' Brigade, the only Brigade not sent off on the trains, was ordered back to the front and placed deployed as skirmishers in the advance breastworks at the foot of Missionary Ridge—the enemy during the day having driven in our whole picket line to within three hundred yards and in full view of the breastworks. Here we remained until the battle of the 25th; keeping up and under arms at night a fourth of the command to prevent surprise. Between the heavy guard duty and the shelling of the enemy, we slept but little on Monday and Tuesday nights. Tuesday the battle raged on the Lookout Mountain two miles on our left and continued until long after dark—at night the blaze of the guns of the contending lines being distinctly seen from our position. Wednesday morning our pickets were driven in to our line and their pursuers in turn speedily driven back with loss by the well directed fire of our rifles. The enemy made a vigorous attack on the extreme right of our lines and was gallantly repulsed—the batteries along the top of Missionary Ridge and from the enemy's forts in our front keeping up a brisk cannonade at intervals along the whole line. At about 3 p. m. the Brigade was ordered to quietly evacuate the breastworks, one company at a time from each Regiment being deployed as skirmishers and sent back to the top of the Ridge in order not to attract the attention of the enemy. Your correspondent had the honor to belong to one of the last companies withdrawn from the breastworks. As the last companies were leaving, our movement was discovered, and the enemy's batteries from every quarter opened on us and their lines were at once advanced to charge the heights. The roar of artillery and the bursting of the shells around as we ascended the Ridge was *"heavy," to say the least of it,* but providentially we suffered but little, many making narrow escapes from the bursting shells. As our companies successively arrived at the top of the Ridge, they were formed and moved into position on the brow of the hill to the right of and near Gen. Bragg's headquarters; a few felled trees in places afforded a slight protection to the men. As the long lines of the enemy advanced across the fields to the foot of the Ridge their ranks were thinned by our artillery, but on they came, soon to be thinned still more by the fire of small arms. In a very few minutes the enemy had crossed the open ground to the foot of the ridge and began to ascend, when at every step they were met by the rapid discharges of musketry, and where the nature of the ground permitted, by artillery. When within close musket range, the incessant fire of our men caused his line to waver and then fall back, and no fears were entertained of his piercing our line. A Brigade a short distance to our right was not so successful, and we soon had the mortification to see the yankee colors some distance to our rear on our right. Reynolds' Brigade still held its position until our line was broken at another point, this time two or three hundred yards to our left, when, the danger of being entirely cut off was imminent, it was ordered to fall back, which was done for the most part in good order, notwithstanding the furious fire of our cannon that the enemy had captured and turned upon us. At the distance of half a mile from the ridge a halt was ordered and a new line formed, across the road leading to the pontoon bridge over the Chickamauga, with portions of Reynolds' and other brigades, the line being under the immediate command of Gens. Breckinridge and Bates. The enemy again attempted a charge, but was repulsed after a brisk fight of half an hour. This last fight was made after dark, and the attack not being renewed, our troops leisurely withdrew over the pontoon bridge to Chickamauga station, four miles, which point we reached at 3 a. m. After halting here for two hours, we were again put in motion, and reached this place, 35 miles from Chattanooga, on Friday night the 27th. Gen. Breckinridge highly complimented our regiment for its gallant conduct on Wednesday night.

A list of the killed, wounded and missing of the N. C. consolidated regiment has been forwarded for publication.

Reynolds' Brigade is composed of 58th and 60th N. C. Regt's consolidated, and 54th and 63d Va. Regiments.

The Brigade being detached from the Division is now temporarily attached to Stevenson's Division.

My motive, Messrs. Editors, is not to scribble myself into notice, but endeavor to prevent the good deeds of my comrades from falling to the ground unnoticed, and if you think proper to publish the foregoing hurried sketch, or any part of it, it is at your service. CALDWELL.

Army Letters.—We are requested by Col. W. E. M. Word, special agent of the Post Office Department, to say that the Postmaster General has established a post office to be called the *"Northern Army of Virginia,"* and appointed Capt. John L. Eubank, of Richmond, Postmaster. Said office is to be located near Gen. Lee's army, and go with it wherever it may go, and the Postmasters in this State and in other States, finding letters in their offices for this army, will confer a favor on the soldiers by sending them *direct* to this new post office, and thereby expedite their delivery.

Southern papers will please copy the above.

Ringgold.—The destruction of this town by our Abolition foe, adds one more to the long list of crimes that is destined to make their name and nation infamous in all time. There was no military necessity for such an act. It benefited them in no wise, except to gratify their hellish spleen in throwing hundreds of women and children out of doors at a most inhospitable season of the year. It was in open violation of the usages of civilized nations, and an act of malicious vandalism that should make them hated and despised by the whole human race.

It is against such a foe we fight—lawless, cruel, remorseless—and yet we prate of treating them when in our hands as civilized and honorable foes! The *halter* is the only desert of such an enemy.—*Savannah Republican.*

Hotels Closed.—The two principal Hotels at Charleston, the Mills House and the Charleston Hotel, have been closed. The Pavilion remains open.

Some lazy fellow spells Tennessee after this fashion: 10 a @

FROM GENERAL BRAGG'S ARMY

RESACA, Ga., Nov. 30, 1863

The news from the front, a telegraphic synopsis of which I sent you last night, is of an encouraging and reassuring character. The enemy's advance forces, after their bloody repulse between Tunnel Hill and Ringgold by Cleburne, retreated to the mountain pass at the latter place, where they still remained at last advices. They destroyed the bridges as they retired, thus showing that they do not propose to follow us further at present, and that they are not willing for the Confederates to get at them. Our rear is on this side of the burnt bridges beyond Tunnel Hill, where it presents a stern and defiant front. The main army is encamped around Dalton, where General Bragg has established his headquarters. The trains and such forces as had reached Resaca have been ordered back to the same place.

There is no reason to apprehend an immediate advance of the Federal army. If the army could not be subsisted at Chattanooga without the aid of the railroad from that point to Bridgeport, neither can it be subsisted at Dalton or Kingston without the possession of the Western and Atlantic road, and a sufficient number of locomotives and cars for the transportation of supplies. These locomotives and cars Gen. Grant has not, and probably cannot procure for some time. Rolling stock which would answer for one road would be inadequate for two. The Federal commander will find it necessary, therefore, in order to an advance into the country, to accumulate supplies at Chattanooga, to repair the railway bridges which his advance forces have already destroyed in the vicinity of Ringgold, and such others as the Confederates may destroy, and to provide a sufficient number of cars and engines to transport supplies for his troops.

In advancing this opinion, I take it for granted that he must advance, if at all this winter, by the railroad route, and not by Wills' Valley, in the direction of Rome. The roads by the latter route, if not impassable in winter to heavily laden army wagons, are of such a character as to render it difficult, if not impossible, to subsist as large an army as his by wagon trains alone. Indeed, if Gen. Grant had intended to move directly upon Rome, Stevenson, and not Chattanooga, would have been chosen as his base of supplies; and, in that event, the struggle for Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge would not have been necessary.

But will Gen. Grant advance at all this winter? It is impossible, of course, for any one except the Federal commander himself to answer this interrogatory, though it is permissible for us to speculate upon his probable designs, with the aid of such lights as are furnished by his previous conduct and present situation. Omitting, as unnecessary to the argument, any inferences that might be drawn from his former campaigns, it is sufficient to say that he has neither the supplies nor the transportation to enable him at this time to move upon Atlanta, the acknowledged goal of his ambition and the desires of his Government. To advance along the railroad at this unauspicious season of the year, and repair the road as he moves, would be a herculean task—a task let us hope, far beyond his power of accomplishment. It is one hundred and thirty-eight miles from Chattanooga to Atlanta; the wagon roads are inferior, and the intervening country is traversed by several mountain ranges and numberless water courses.

Can he cross this wide track under the heavy rains and frequent snows of winter? If he cannot, will he attempt to march a part of the way now, and the remainder in the spring? The suggestion was made some time ago, in one of these letters, that his efforts this fall would probably be limited to an attempt to get possession of the region of country lying west of the west branch of the Chickamauga, and that early next spring he would put his army in motion towards the great railway centre of the Confederacy. Can he do more than this now? The district from this place to Chattanooga, fifty miles in width, has been stript of its supplies, and an invading army would have to bring along with it all it required for its support. Grant may make an effort, however, to get possession of Dalton, the point where the Georgia and East Tennessee road unites with the Western and Atlantic road, and even to resch the Etowah river; but there is no reason to believe that he will attempt to go further now. The immediate possession of Dalton was doubtless one of the objects of his pursuit of Gen. Bragg, since it would have cut off all communication by railway with Knoxville, and all possibility of succor to Gen'l Longstreet.

That an effort will be made to capture Longstreet and his command, there is no room to doubt. At last accounts, the 23d inst., Knoxville was completely invested by the Confederates, who were only waiting for reinforcements, then about due, to make an assault upon the town. An intelligent officer, who left on that day, is very confident that the attack, if not prevented by the success of the enemy at Chattanooga, would prove successful. Wheeler, with a portion of his command, has arrived at Dalton, having on his way chased the enemy from Cleveland and recaptured a portion of our lost wagon train.

Capt. Hoback, of the Quartermaster's department, informs me that our total loss of wagons during the late battle, and the operations which preceded and succeeded it, was about one hundred, including ten ordnance wagons taken on Missionary Ridge. Our loss of artillery is not known to me, but I suppose it was about equal to our captures at Chickamauga—say forty guns.

The weather is exceedingly cold, and many of the troops lost their blankets and shoes in the recent fight and on the retreat. Will not the people open their hearts and purses?

Correspondent Richmond Dispatch.

From General Longstreet's Army.—RICHMOND, Dec. 7.—From a gentleman direct from Gen. Ransom's command, and now in Richmond on business connected with that command, we have cheering intelligence from Gen. Longstreet's army, which clears up some of the misty misstatements that have appeared in the Northern papers concerning the raising of the siege at Knoxville and Gen. Longstreet's retreat from that place in the direction of Virginia. Gen. Ransom's army was in motion to form a junction with Gen. Longstreet at Knoxville, and, on Monday last, the 30th ultimo, he moved from Rogersville to Bean station, but, acting upon a subsequent order, made a retrograde movement back to Rogersville. A second order instructed him to press forward to Knoxville, and, on Wednesday, the 2d instant, Gen. Ransom, with his splended force, was again at Bean station, about forty miles from Knoxville, and pressing forward. From this place he dispatched a courier to Gen. Longstreet, announcing his proximity and expected to form the junction on Friday night or last Saturday. The announcement in the Northern papers of Gen. Longstreet's retreat was evidently based on the retrograde movement made by Gen. Ransom from Bean station to Rogersville, and whose troops were mistaken for a portion of General Longstreet's forces.

The siege was certainly progressing at Knoxville on the 2nd instant, or Gen. Longstreet would not have urged Gen. Ransom to hasten his junction with him at that point.—*Examiner.*

YANKEE FINANCES.—A yankee paper denies that the estimates of amounts to be asked for from Congress for the next fiscal year will reach twelve hundred millions of dollars, and asserts that they probably will not exceed three-quarters of that amount, that is, nine hundred millions.

A CHEERING VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN TRANS MISSISSIPPI

We extract the following encouraging views from an article in the Mobile News:

When Beast Butler was removed from New Orleans and Banks was sent to take his place, the latter brought fifteen or twenty thousand men with him. With these, and the small fragment of Butler's army, he was expected to reduce Port Hudson, to occupy Alexandria, and to overrun most of the sugar-producing portion of the State. He succeeded, by the aid of the navy, and as a corollary of the fall of Vicksburg, in capturing Port Hudson. He entered Alexandria only to fall back, after a few days, with the loss of all the military stores at Berwick's Bay. The Confederate pickets, indeed, were close enough to New Orleans at one time, to see the spires of St. Patrick's Church. He was ordered to make an expedition to Mobile and capture us all there: and two corps of Grant's army, terribly reduced by the siege of Vicksburg, were sent to him as reinforcements. These reinforcements scarcely made his army about as large as it was when he first went to New Orleans—for Port Hudson, battle and disease, had fearfully thinned his ranks. About this time, such demonstrations were made upon his left by our Trans-Mississippi forces, under Gen. Kirby Smith, as to induce him to abandon the doubtful enterprise of capturing Mobile. The plan was postponed, and a grand Louisiana Texas expedition organized. What the result of that expedition has been we now know.

Thus we see what it has all cost. Butler's army, Banks' original army, and two corps of Grant's army, have accomplished next to nothing in the long period of nineteen months; and the federals really hold little more of Louisiana than they did a month after Farragut anchored his ship of war opposite New Orleans.

It is true they have injured us, but they have not benefited themselves. If they had reaped a gain corresponding to our loss, they might well boast; but they have not. With all their troops, and all their ships, and all their money, they cannot show any material advance towards the conquest of Louisiana, after nineteen months of steady and persistent effort.

This, too, when they had every advantage. They had all appliances of war, by land and by sea. We on the contrary, had nothing after the fall of Vicksburg, but the soil and the men—"the kindly fruits of the earth," and a people brave enough (as little bravery as this requires) to resist the invasion of a vandal foe. With *all these* circumstances against them, the people of Trans-Mississippi have made what we may well call a heroic defence of their country—and it will be so adjudged by history.

Now then let the yankees send their expedition to Texas—what avails it? If they cannot conquer Louisana, permeated as she is with navigable waters, how can they conquer Texas? Texas is larger, territorially, than all New England and New York put together. It is not intersected by navigable streams. It is an empire itself large enough to hold, and feed, and sustain the whole population of the Confederate States. The expedition there may succeed, to a certain extent, in one of its objects, which is nothing more nor less than to steal cotton. But as for conquest and occupation of the country, the thing is too absurd to be thought of.

On the whole, we rather think that the enemy will, in the language of the law, take nothing by the motion of their Trans-Mississippi campaign. They have already robbed the people of all the negroes, and cotton, and sugar that came in their way. And there is nothing more to steal, where they have any chance of going in safety. They may gracefully retire now, with the honors (such as they are) of indiscriminate pillage: and they may rest assured that these honors will be freely accorded them by those who have been their victims, and by the impartial pen of history.

SUFFOLK SADLY CHANGED BY THE WAR.

Before the war Suffolk was a most delightful place. But how changed. At the opening of the war the number of inhabitants was 1,500, with 5 churches, a weekly newspaper, 17 stores, 4 or 5 schools, a Lodge of Masons and Odd Fellows, and a division of the Sons of Temperance. Everything seemed cheerful and looked prosperous. But alas! what has the war and the yankee invasion done? Now, about 350 persons, of all sizes and color, make up the whole number of inhabitants. The yards and gardens have all been destroyed, and many of the most beautiful family residences are ruined. Look up and down Main street and scarcely a person can be seen moving. Nearly all the servants and free negroes have moved off with their hypocritical sympathizers, and the white gentlemen and ladies do all the work heretofore performed by servants.

For miles around Suffolk scarcely a tree has been left standing, and not a house, or fence, or anything, save old fortifications, rifle-pits and small brushwood can be seen. All, all have been destroyed by the accursed invaders of our soil and destroyers of our homes. At least half a million of property was destroyed by fire in one week, about the time Longstreet retired from the vicinity of Suffolk in May last. Many, before comfortable, and even affluent, were sent forth in the world homeless and penniless.

But, in spite of all their losses and their present condition, the citizens of Suffolk and Nansemond are true to the Southern cause, and suffering has only increased their love for the Southern institutions.

The future, in some respects, looks gloomy indeed, to the people here, but all seem astonishingly hopeful, and I cannot but look upon them, with all their oppressions and sufferings, and feel ashamed for many despondents in other sections.

Four companies of yankee cavalry are stationed at Bernard's mill, four miles below Suffolk, on the Portsmouth road, and their pickets are at Jericho run 2 miles from town. Little thieving squads frequently enter the town and steal whatever they can find, and arrest soldiers and returned citizens that may come in their way. Every one has some tale to tell of wrongs perpetrated by the Spears' 11th Pennsylvania cavalry. The Confederate commander that will capture this regiment of cavalry, and bring up the head of Col. Spears in a charger, will immortalize himself in this community.

Several refugees were in town last week, among them the Pastor of one of the churches, who, to avoid arrest, staid only a short time, and was not permitted to meet the few remaining members of his charge in worship.

Hardee.—It has been the fortune of this General always to whip his share of the fight, no matter what may be the general results of the day. At Shiloh he drove the enemy to the Tennessee river, and would have run them *into* it but for an unlucky order from the Commander-in-Chief to retire. At Murfreesboro', in command of our left wing, he fought one of the most terrific battles and won as brilliant a victory as there is on record. Unfortunately the centre and right did not do so well. And now again, in the Chickamauga Valley, he triumphs over the foe and captures seven stand of colors when the rest of the army is flying in confusion from the field.

Salt! Salt!! Salt!!!

THE Subscriber will sell five hundred bushels SALT at ten dollars per Bushel. 75 per cent on cost, for cash or barter in corn and wheat, at Shallotte, Brunswick County. JOSEPH C. BROOKS.
November 16. 81*11pd